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AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On June 1st, at Tientsin, the wife of ROWLAND H. E. WADE, Chinese Customs Service, of a daughter.

On June 14th, at Shanghai, the wife of L. H. DRAKEFORD, of a son.

On June 14th, at the Victoria Hospital, the wife of M. C. MESSER, of a son.

DEATHS.

On June 6th, at Shanghai, Dr. JOHN ANTHON LYNCH, late of Chinkiang, aged 47 years.

On the 16th June, at Haiphong, Tonkin, E. IEN-FE FOUSÉ, manager of A. E. MARTY HAIPHONG firm.—Aged 44 years.

On June 17th, at Shanghai, SARAH ELLEN MURPHINE, beloved wife of Alfred R. Murphine, aged 50 years.

On June 17th, at Shanghai, N. SORABJEE, Manager of Messrs. Phirozaha B. Petit & Co.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of 21st May arrived, per the s.s. *Preussen*, on Wednesday, the 19th instant; and the French Mail of 24th May arrived, per the s.s. *Ernest Simons*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that at the expiration of three months from 10th June the Victoria Necropolis Company, Limited, will, unless cause is shown to the contrary, be struck off the register and the company will be dissolved.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the names of the following Companies have been struck off the Register:—1. The Tung Yik Marine, Fire and Life Insurance Company, Limited; 2. The Tao Sung Steam Launch Navigation Company, Limited; 3. The East Sunrise Fire and Marine Insurance, Exchange, Mortgage and Godown Company, Limited; and 4. The Hankow Daily Times Company, Limited.

A member of the police force who deserted about twelve months ago, was arrested in Hongkong last week. During his absence he had been employed in the Chinese Customs, and apparently had come to Hongkong for a trip. A warrant was out for the arrest of ex-constable Norman in connection with a sum of about \$400 which was not paid to the compradore of the Water Police mess while Norman was in charge of the mess. He was fined \$200, or six months.

Information has reached here that the *Sainam*, while on her journey last Wednesday from Canton to Wuchow, went ashore near the Ling Yang gorge. A hole has been knocked in her port side and her cargo has been seriously damaged by water. Fortunately no lives were endangered but her passengers received such a fright that most of them clambered over the ship's side and waded ashore. The vessel was beached and shortly afterwards the gunboats *Moorhen* and *Sandpiper* arrived on the scene but little assistance could be rendered.

Deposits in the Japanese Post Office Savings Bank have continued to increase steadily of late, and the total has now reached the highest figure on record since the introduction of the system in that country. The number of depositors stood at 7,386,256 on May 23rd, the total deposits amounting to ¥77,424,346. Compared with the corresponding date of last year, the number of depositors shows an increase of 1,389,456, and the total deposits an increase of ¥23,822,804. At present, the interest is being computed, so that when this sum is added to the principal the sum to the credit of depositors will, it is expected, exceed ¥80,000,000.

Hsi Yun, a Manchu Censor, has memorialized the Waiwupu recommending the establishment of an independent and purely Chinese Roman Catholic Church in China. He also suggests that a special Envoy should be sent to the Pope to request his Holiness to appoint a Papal Nuncio to reside in Peking, and that a Chinese Cardinal be appointed by the Pope to be the head of the Chinese Roman Catholic Church, who shall control all matters relating to that Church in this Empire. The ultimate object of these suggestions is the perfecting of amicable and cordial intercourse between converts and non-converts subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor.

Mr. Daniel Talbot, late walking ganger on the works at the south face of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, died suddenly in the Government Civil Hospital on June 17th after a brief illness. Deceased was brought to Hongkong on account of his long experience with railway work, and was about to re-start operations on the north face of the tunnel when he became ill. He was a great favourite with the railway employees, and others who knew him in Hongkong, who will hear the news of his untimely end with regret. The remains were interred in the Happy Valley Cemetery next afternoon, many of his mates on the railway following the cortege.

The seven Chinese whose extradition was sought by the Chinese Government some weeks ago for alleged piracy in Chinese territory near Yeung Kong on the West River, and who were committed to jail pending the order of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, were on June 14th taken to Canton in a Chinese torpedo boat.

In order to discourage the fashion amongst the student classes of putting on foreign clothes the Chinese Ministry of Education recently issued an order prohibiting all students in the government schools and colleges from dressing in that way. In consequence of the inconveniences attendant to going through gymnastic exercises whilst dressed in native clothes, the Ministry of Education has rescinded the prohibitory order, only as far as gymnastics are concerned, but orders that all such foreign-style clothes must be made solely of native manufactured cloth, no foreign manufactures being permitted.

Argente Ferranti, an Italian, was on June 21 removed to hospital suffering from a wound in the leg accidentally inflicted by himself. H. had gone to the Connaught Hotel just before tiffin to call on a gentleman whom he was trying to persuade to purchase a revolver. In showing it, he allowed the revolver to point towards his companion who told him not to do that as it might be loaded. Ferranti, in order to show that it was not, pointed it towards the ground and pulled the trigger. Then it was found that the revolver was loaded. The bullet entered Ferranti's knee and blood flowed copiously from the wound. Dr. Justi was quickly in attendance and the man was removed.

There is shortly to be formed a motor bus service for Singapore, the route being from Johnston's Pier to the Botanical Gardens. Messrs. Wearne and Co. are the promoters of the project, and intend to have a continuous service with three cars on the road. The largest vehicle employed will be one of Dougill and Company's Frick motor char-a-bancs, to seat 18 passengers, the chief feature of which is the one-lever driving. The car can be regulated from dead low to top speeds by the manipulation of a single lever. It is understood that the journey from Johnston's Pier will be divided into three fares of ten cents apiece, and there can be little doubt that among a certain class of residents this unique mode of travel to and from town will become popular.

A the Marine Magistrate's Court on June 21 Commander Basil Taylor, R.N., convicted F. Johnson, donkeyman, M. Mainwaring, J. Cronin, and A. Thern, firemen, belonging to the s.s. *Couquet* of quitting the ship without the permission of the master, Thomas Walker, on the 19th inst. in Victoria Harbour. The master said that the accused quitted the ship without leave. Cronin and Thern returned during the night and created a disturbance. Thern fell overboard and wanted to fight those who rescued him. On the morning of the 20th the two men again went ashore without leave. Witnesses saw them in a sampan and called to them to come back, but they refused to return. They said they wanted to see a doctor. The doctor was on board the previous day, but they did not want to see him then. Defendants who plead guilty said they had never asked leave yet since they had been on this ship. They were ordered to forfeit eight days' pay each.

THE CUBICLE QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 15th June).

"Experience keeps a dear school." The remainder of the quotation need not be mentioned. Hongkong has had a four years' experience of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, and the Commission which sat to inquire into the irregularities to which that measure gave rise has enabled us to count the cost. No one doubts the genuineness of the motives and the hopes of reform which inspired its framers, but the clumsy and overlaid Ordinance was drawn up without a knowledge of human nature as it is found in Hongkong and without a due appreciation of the economic conditions under which the masses live. It is very human, we know, to adopt the "I told you so" attitude after the event, but we cannot restrain a consciousness of satisfaction that the *Daily Press* was among the earliest to express the conviction that the attempt to abolish cubicles had failed and that instead of improved sanitary conditions in the houses of the thousands of poorer Chinese there were worse. In February of last year articles appeared in our columns setting forth this view and showing how the Ordinance created unnecessary hardships without effecting any betterment in the conditions of the people. Then the Commission was appointed, and the exposure of the uselessness and danger of the objectionable section followed. Indeed the recommendations of the Commissioners on the cubicle question are the most valuable in the report, a fact which has been realised by the Government and led to a change of attitude which reflects credit on the responsible officials. When mistakes are made and pointed out it is well to recognise them and to profit by the experience gained.

It will be remembered that by the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903—which it was hoped would be the last word on a thorny subject—it was anticipated that builders would be forced to erect suitable houses which would contain legal rooms. But apparently the speculation was not regarded as attractive and the old type of tenement houses, about fifty or sixty feet deep, without lateral windows, was continued. Yet cubicles had been abolished by law. How could the old-fashioned type of house be made to pay? Very easily. No matter how carefully any legislation may be drawn a way to evade it can always be found, especially by such an inventive people as the Chinese. In this instance the wooden partitions were removed, thus complying with the law, but in their place appeared sacking or curtains dividing the little apartments. Not only did the latter afford less privacy but they constituted a menace to health. Naturally the Chinese found the measure very repressive. The wisdom of it was not apparent to them and as it exposed them to harsh treatment and a series of harassing visits from Government minions their voices were raised in complaint. Nothing however was done but now that the Commission has focussed opinion on the subject something will be done. The Government has realised how impracticable were its attempts to abolish cubicles by the mere passing of an Ordinance, and it has decided to go back to the conditions prevailing before 1903. Cubicles are to be allowed. Each house and each floor is to be assessed, giving the number of cubicles permissible according to the space, a policy which is according to be appreciated by the Chinese.

And yet with this concession—which the economic conditions demanded—the problem

of the housing of the people is still unsolved. How important it is that the community should be housed under healthy conditions is admitted by everybody who gives the subject a thought, but somehow there seems to be an aversion to seriously face the problem and to try for a solution consistent with the enlightenment which British administration is supposed to mean. It is no compliment to Western civilisation that whatever advantages life in Hongkong may mean for the natives it does not provide them with as good living accommodation as they would find in Chinese cities. The system of housing here is unique. It is neither European nor Chinese. It is a combination possessing the defects of both with the advantages of neither. As has been pointed out before in the *Daily Press*, the question is one for the consideration of builders as much as for the Government. With a city situated as Hongkong is, built at the base of a hill, with a population giving to swarming in vast aggregations, the authorities will find it well nigh impossible to bring about unaided a better system of housing. Unless they are assisted by landowners and builders they can effect little improvement in existing conditions. Nevertheless it remains for the Government to take the initiative. The fact that overcrowding exists is no reason for adding to the evil by sanctioning the erection of additional houses in congested areas. With cheaper dwellings provided in outlying districts at rents which will make it worth the people's while travelling the greater distance—a condition which should be rendered possible by the reduced value of the land—the question of overcrowding would adjust itself in time. That it is possible to build more suitable houses for Chinese and yet show a profit is an opinion we have expressed before, and with His Excellency the Acting Governor of the same mind it ought not to be long before we see the experiment tried and its success proved. If speculators hesitate, His Excellency might show them the way. We don't suggest that the Government should embark on undertakings which have hitherto been left to private enterprise, but an experiment conducted by the Government in the interests of public health would not be disregarded by landowners, property owners and builders. A "model" block of workmen's tenements should be a remunerative experiment, and the builders would hardly oppose it as unfair competition under the circumstances.

CHINA TELEGRAPHS.

(Daily Press 17th June).

As an indication of the perverse spirits with whom China has to deal in her path towards reform, we may point to a recent attempt to amend the Tariff for inland telegrams which has been so high as seriously to hamper the trade of the country; and not only to do so but as a natural sequence to prevent the revenue from this source ever reaching a paying standard. The revenue derived by the Government from its system of Imperial Telegraphs has, in fact, never had fair play; and has never repaid the country for its outlay; though doubtless individual, and more especially the late Director, and a few of his friends, have contrived to feather their nests to some purpose. When first China found herself at war with France, and afterwards with Japan, the construction of telegraph lines impressed itself upon the Government, and there were found no obstacles of Fengshui or outcries against

foreign innovations to stop the way. Telegraphs had not been introduced for the benefit of trade, nor were the interests of merchants at all considered in their construction. It was seen, indeed that some of the expenses of keeping up the lines might be got back if they were thrown open to the public, and so a tariff, needlessly high, if the object of the lines were mercantile, was decided on, seemingly in consultation with the manager of the Great Northern Line who for reasons of his own did not care to see too low rates in contrast with those of his own company. Whatever was the intention of the Government with regard to the lines, the accommodation of the public was the last thing that entered its mind, and so from the very beginning the control of the telegraph became a private affair in the hands of the appointed Director, the then well-known SHENG SWANHWEI, more frequently known by his usual title of SHENG Taotai. Following the customary practice of Chinese Government appointments, no accounts were required to be kept the Director making his own private arrangements at Peking, and for the rest pursuing the good old plan of appropriating all he could. Manifestly under this happy-go-lucky system, it was SHENG's interest to say as little as possible about tariffs, and to make as few changes as possible, lest too much attention should be drawn to the little perquisite. But naturally he had to pay for keeping the affair dark; and one of the little exactions that he found himself unable to control was that every official who fancied that he had influence at Peking conceived himself entitled to use the line for his own private purposes; and under the pretence of sending Government messages insisted on using the line as his own private property. It is one of the worst features of such a system of finance that it opens the door to all manner of irregularities, and SHENG's control of the telegraphs was on a par with all the rest of the financial administration of China. At last matters came to a crisis, and SHENG, who, in spite of his nominal promotion to the rank of *Kung Pao*, has been steadily losing ground at Peking, was relieved of the office, and a new Director under a salary of Tls. 1,000 per mensem appointed, Taotai YANG WANCHUN. Apparently Taotai YANG sees possibilities in the affair which SHENG has been anxious to conceal, and his first act on taking over the administration has been to boldly memorialise the New Board of Communications for permission to reduce by fifty per cent. the present charges. For some time, it may be remembered, the same SHENG SWANHWEI has been also at the head of the railway administration, and apparently the same system has been in full vogue there. There is at least little doubt that the Government has never received its fair share of the traffic receipts, while the whole thing has been carried on in an equally ignorant and wasteful manner, and preferences have been the rule all round, while no encouragement has been held out for wholesome increases. The Government has been, it is true, largely to blame itself for killing the growing goods traffic by the exaction of likin charges, but the mischief thus done has been small in comparison with that due to the other abuses which under the family system of SHENG have grown and fattened round the railway administration. But SHENG is by no means disposed to permit his carefully cherished system of exploitation of the revenues of China to be extinguished without a struggle, and there are many more, such as he who are prepared to come to the rescue of a system under which they have grown fat. What is it to them that

the country has been suffering, if they, the cream of the land, have grown fat? SHENG at all events is determined to have the last word; and there are plenty more who will back up his protest against the new scheme of the nominee of the Board of Communications. YANG, the new Superintendent of the Telegraphs, is to have a salary of a thousand taels per month; doubtless SHENG and such as he, will inveigh against the extravagance of such salaries; why a Viceroy is not allowed such a salary, and YANG, who is only a Taotai, is to be placed under the new régime over the head of a Viceroy; the very idea is iniquitous. Of course Peking can see through this very thin veil of reasoning but Peking has its own reason for joining in the remonstrance. SHENG had his own reasons for approving of the old régime; the Government of the country, it is true, did not as a Government grow fat on the system, and was always out at elbows; but here again there was a distinction, and a very pointed one. The Government of China as a whole is very different from the Government as a collection of individuals, and SHENG, and those like him, recognised the distinction. A hint that SHENG was getting richer than was fair was now and then found effectual in deflecting presents towards the Capital, and we have had recent evidences that even Princes of the Imperial blood are not case-hardened against their acceptance. Now Taotai YANG, though he might officially send far more money up to Peking, was out of his thousand taels per mensem manifestly incapable of making a present of an odd lakh now and then to a Prince, or it might be a favourite eunuch, or even occasionally the President of a Board; and all these in their heart of hearts will most assuredly feel themselves bound to support SHENG KUNG PAO's protest. Reform has, in fact, as we have mentioned repeatedly, to begin at the head. It is useless trying to reform a poor taotai, who however individually honest cannot be expected to stand the racket of opposing the higher powers. The Board of Communications is doubtless taking a business-like view of the situation. The revenue of the Telegraph Administration is capable of great increase, and the increase is to be gained by a reasonable reduction of the present excessive charges, and the abolition of preferences; but both these things imply interference with practices dear to the highest in the land. The same may be said of the Railways and the Customs, and the Likin, in fact of every branch of the Administration.

Unfortunately the higher we go the more powerful are the SHENG KUNG PAO tribe and the larger are the maws of the would-be recipients. We fear Taotai YANG and the Board of Communications will still have an anxious time before them, before the Telegraph System is reformed.

"THE COLOUR OF LONDON."

(Daily Press, 18th June).

It is inevitable that in such a book as "The Colour of London," published by CHATTO & WINDUS, the work of the author, Mr. W. J. LOFTIE, F.S.A., will be partly eclipsed by the work of the artist, Mr. YOSHIO MARKING. With recollections of many foreign studies by Japanese artists we opened this book in the full expectation that the publishers would be found to have spoiled an excellent series by yielding to the *entente* craze of the moment. An agreeable disappointment was the result. This Japanese colourist's work has had the selection and endorsement of Mr. M. H.

SPIELMANN, F.S.A., as well as of the author; and though we cannot doubt that there will be exceptions taken by some experts, we are vastly impressed by these remarkable pictures. These watercolours of London scenes by this young Japanese put the watercolour studies of Japan by MORTIMER MENPES quite into the shade—a comparison that is as irresistible as it may be odious. As it is the Japanese point of view that has chief interest for us out here, we may dismiss the literary work of Mr. LOFTIE, excellent as it is, with a few lines. Less ambitious than Sir WALTER BESANT's work, its readers, whether Londoners or not, will find this account of absorbing interest and undeniable charm. It is a series of word pictures, retrospective as well as contemporary, made by an artist rather than by a historian, although the historical interest has no subordinate place. It shows us the salient features of the fascinating city and tells us at the same time their several stories. The editor has had the wit to further enhance the literary charm of the book by including an "essay" by the artist, in his own quaint English, coloured by his own native sentiment. After a residence of over nine years, Mr. YOSHIO MARKING loves London. His pictures would prove it, if he had made no such declaration. He is also a great admirer of the London ladies, as who that has travelled and compared can fail to be. As an artist he regrets some "miscontrast colours" in their dresses, but praises their general carriage and style. Bus-drivers and policemen he has an affection for, and a respect for the London crowd—"except on two occasions. They were Ladysmith and Mafeking's days." Normally the crowds please him. "They move on slowly and slowly—as slow as the watch handle, and one after another they finish the sight seeing." The conversation of the shopman from whom he gets "morning papers and a few pence of cigarettes every day" has given him, "more than once, a key by which I could solve my questions about the human philosophy! Perhaps he himself does not know the lessons that he gave me were more valuable than some books or lectures." There are many such unwitting philosophers, but it needs the hearing ear to discover them, just as it requires the seeing eye to find "the colour of London." The Philistine interprets literally the phrase of "the light that never was on land or sea", but it is really there. Just a few more quotations may be pardoned as they help to familiarise us with the mind of the artist.

"I see that almost all children are very beautiful. I am very fond of the poor class children as well, and perhaps with more sympathy. It is very lovely to see them skipping on the streets. Their faces stained with finger-marks and their stockings pulled down to the ankle are very picturesque. They don't know what will be their future, but when they are grown, lo! there is a wide ditch between them and others. They will be like their own parents, and their own children will repeat the same again. So, generation after generation, these poor victims will have no chance to float up to the surface of society, unless some better arrangement of education takes place. When I think of it, the question of the meaning of life always comes to my mind. Although I have a great sympathy towards these poor children, I always dread them when they come near me within a yard. They have such a horrible odour; pity that London has not cheap baths as in Japan, for they ought to go to the bath once a day. . . . If the object of our life in this world is merely to seek happiness, I think the poor are having a better time than some others who have too much ambition—especially those who are in political fever. For instance, look at the sovereign of one of the great

powers of Europe. His ambition is not fulfilled by being an Emperor in his own country. His heart is always aching, his life is always in danger, and his brain is always over-worrying, and now and then he has a nightmare called "Yellow Peril." How miserable he must be, comparing his life to the Whitechapel people. I rather prefer the latter's."

Therein we have a glimpse in thought of the qualities of the pictures, sentiment sympathy, and a sly humour, with sometimes a slight distortion. There is the greyiness of London, which any Philistine can see, and there are its component hues that the analytical brush discovers. It is not even necessary to have WHISTLER's fanciful imagination to recognise the beauty to be found in dear, dirty London, although in a view from Hungerford Bridge the Japanese artist has relied on the WHISTLER haziness. Very often, of course, what are called "effects" depend on mere trickery of technique, and Mr. YOSHIO MARKING's methods probably afford ample scope for professional controversy. We are less interested in that, however, or in his strictly urban portraiture, than in his marvellous knack of catching the life and movement of the streets. The various ways in which skirts may be lifted out of the mud seem to have afforded a special and interesting study. Each specimen is convincing. The faces are English, or rather London faces—no suggestion of the Oriental about them. All Londoners will understand and approve while noticing that it is London by night that appeals to the artist, and not one exile who gazes at these well remembered scenes but will sympathise with the feeling that made the artist draw the "Inaba Maru" as it lay in the Albert Docks. If we could welcome, as we did a few days ago, a feeble attempt by a Japanese journalist to show us ourselves as others see us, we can the more easily and gratefully thank this artist for pointing out beauties somehow felt but not recognised, in the great centre of civilization to which our thoughts are constantly turning.

"BRITISH SUBJECTS."

(Daily Press, 19th June).

Although it was not expected that the discussions at the Colonial Conference would lead to any immediate practical results, there has been one subject upon which the meeting of the Premiers in London has had that effect. There can be little question that the Home Government were largely influenced in their decision not to advise the Crown to veto the Transvaal Indian Exclusion Act, by the opinions which were expressed upon this and similar subjects by the representatives of different Colonies. The feeling upon this subject is undoubtedly very strong, and it must have been obvious to the Government that it would be an unwise policy to insist upon the Colonies receiving into their midst, immigrants who are for substantial reasons undesirable, either upon the grounds that the countries from which they came had treaty relations with Great Britain and were entitled to be dealt with as on an equality, or upon the narrower, but in some respects more incisive ground that they were British Subjects and had, therefore, the right to be so recognised by any Colony under the British Flag. The former question is a difficult one to deal with, but it has been adjusted in recent years by the introduction into treaties of a clause as to right of residence in the respective countries of the contracting parties excluding the applicability of the privilege as regards such of the Colonies as were unwilling to accede to it. In the past

this precaution has not always been taken, but no doubt in the future, the necessity for a clause of the kind in any new treaties or treaty revisions will not be overlooked. That the Home Government cannot force Australia, New Zealand or South Africa to receive the subjects of Asiatic countries whom they regard as undesirable citizens, will in the future be accepted as an established principle—and if the Government of any Asiatic country desires this privilege, it will have to negotiate specially for it.

The matter, however, at first sight appeared more difficult of solution in respect to Indian immigrants to the Colonies, as they, or rather the oratorical friends who took up their cause, were able to wrap themselves up in the British flag and, as they thought, to claim the full rights of British subjects. In an abstract point of view, the argument looked almost unanswerable but a very simple answer to it has been the fortunate outcome of the recent Conference, and the fact augurs well for the value in the future of some such means of Colonial representation at headquarters. It is pointed out that though Indians are in one sense British subjects they are not such in a way that will entitle them to everything that may be claimed by those of European descent—and among those privileges that of absolute right to be received on an equality in Colonies having their own independent autonomy, may reasonably be considered as excluded. The Colonies have very largely made their own countries without much direct assistance even from the mother country and certainly without the aid of the Indians who now clamour to come in at the last moment and to share the advantages which they have not in any way contributed to produce. To claim this right merely because they are under the protection of the British Government in their own country and are recognised as British subjects is carrying a good principle to an absurdity. This fact has been recognised by the Home Government who have wisely (*more Britannico*) preferred common sense to logic—and have not attempted to interfere with the undoubted rights of Colonies to regulate their internal affairs for the sake of pushing another principle good enough in itself to unreasonable lengths.

The position which has thus been asserted might with advantage be advanced a further stage. There has often been trouble in China through Singapore Chinamen claiming to be "British subjects," when "but for the merest accident of birth," they are to all intents—in habits, in instincts, in language and largely in education Chinese—and really only wish under the cloak of being "British subjects" to hunt with the hounds and run with the hare. It would not be unreasonable that such men should be considered as Chinese unless on landing in China, they declared themselves at the British Consulate as British and in some distinctive way made this apparent to the Chinese Authorities and others concerned. It is possible that as the "British subject" question generally has now been brought within more reasonable limits, the position of Chinamen born in Singapore or other British Colonies may also be placed upon a more satisfactory basis than has been the case hitherto.

The Chinese press is to be placed under the control of the minister of Posts and Communications. It is enacted by the proposed new laws that no newspaper shall attack the Government nor the administration, nor must it allow a personal attack on a member of the Government, nor insert any secret official document.

JAPAN AND THE POWERS.

(Daily Press, 20th June.)

"He would an be could" is apparently the ignoble view taken by nation of nation, in respect to possible aggression and land-grabbing. Japan has had to go to great lengths to assure other nations of its pacific and honest intentions, since those other nations awoke to the fact that Japan is able to be dishonest if it likes. The Franco-Japanese agreement is taken mainly as a guarantee that Japan does not covet Indo-China, nor contemplate conquest there; and if there could only be a similar guarantee that Japan has no designs on the Philippines, we suspect that we should hear much less of American anti-Japanese prejudice. Even when Japan was struggling with Russia, and the French authorities of Indo-China were just a little too hospitable to Admiral Rozhdestvensky and his ill-fated Armada, the Japanese found occasion to publish assurances that they did not and never had had the least wish to covet or capture the Asiatic possessions of France. They were not believed, for such suspicions are more easily propagated than exterminated. Now they have given the best possible proof of sincerity, it is somewhat odd to find a respectable contemporary gravely recording as history the nightmares of political pessimists. The *Shanghai Mercury* declares without any qualification or doubt whatever that the Fushoda incident was grasped at by the Japanese as an opportunity. "Whilst Sir MORTIMER DURAND was conducting in Paris the negotiations which terminated in peace, the Japanese Government," it roundly states, "was preparing for war. Every staff officer was summoned to Tokyo in the expectation that at any moment orders would be issued for the mobilization of troops which were to be employed in a descent upon French possessions in the Far East in the event of war between France and Britain." This is wonderful, and does not enhance our appreciation of the way history is made. Some papers outside Japan at that time may have suggested, and perhaps did, that Japan could and might do some such thing; but so far as our recollection goes, there was absolutely no foundation discernible in the Island Empire for any such statements. The Japanese Intelligence Office may have known "to a hair" how much France's ally, Russia, would be worth in a Far Eastern strife, but we are not prepared to admit that "every calculation was made for the success of the undertaking," simply because we do not believe that such an undertaking was contemplated. It is easy for an arm-chair strategist to point-out that "if a descent upon Tongking could be made simultaneously with an outbreak on a large scale of the Black Flag Societies on the border provinces whilst France was (*sic*) hampered by a war with Britain, a considerable measure of success might be safely anticipated for the expedition." That bears all the stigma of arm-chair-strategy, but it is not high politics, and it is no history. There was undoubtedly some dissatisfaction over the allegation of French breaches of neutrality during the Russo-Japanese war, and we know that the Japanese press, like the newspaper men of other nations, had hotheads who talked of reprisals, but the government of Japan is not swayed by this sort of counsel, and it is sheer invention to say that there was "again a strong feeling in favour of the invasion of Tongking." Japan had too much on its hands, even if it had been tempted to favour such a policy; and if, as is further alleged, France had at that time set about preparing

"immense re-inforcements of French forces in the Far East," her protestations of neutrality would have gone for less than they did. The carelessness of the historian is evident in his reference to the new Anglo-Japanese agreement, by which the Allied Powers are not "pledged to assist each other in the event of war." The pledge operates only in the event of "unprovoked attack or aggressive action," and the war to follow must be "in defence of its territorial right or special interests." If Japan declares war on America, which is most unlikely, Great Britain would not be concerned under the treaty, though it might if the declaration came from the other side. Great Britain is bound to interfere against any Russian "campaign of revenge," as was probably chiefly intended; but at the time of the renewed Alliance, there was no question of the amicable relations of Japan and France, or of Japan and America, and it is nothing more than journalistic imagination to suggest otherwise. Recognising the prevailing mistrust and evil thinking of pseudo-Christian Powers, the Japanese statesmen have thought it well in the interests of peace to take pains to prove the good faith of their Government, and that is all there really is behind the much-talked-of *entente*. If the American Government were in position of real authority over all its component states, which it seems it is not, we should soon see a similar agreement between it and Japan. The *Times* has suggested that America's "traditional policy" is against such agreements, but the real obstacle seems to be, as we pointed out some time ago, that America is not yet in a position to keep them. The great Republic, the world's terrible example of a misfit ideal, still lets the tail wag the dog, much as China does.

CUMSHAWS.

(Daily Press, June 21st.)

There are some people who argue, on the line that in Rome it is permissible to do as the Romans do, that those Sanitary officials who "squeezed" were not really dragging the name of Englishman into the mire—that they were not, in fact, positively dishonest at all. They had, it is suggested, merely substituted one code of ethics for another. We have in the past pointed out that morals are a question of latitude, and that in the Arctic circle it is a virtuous and public-spirited act to give euthanasia to one's grandparents. That was, however, merely academic, to prove some point now forgotten, and we are not sufficiently latitudinarian to sanction the implication that in practice frigid ethics will bear transplanting to torrid regions. Indeed, memory now awakes to the fact that that was the point of politics in question—the advisability or otherwise of missionaries endeavouring to make the creed of a locality universal. As the local servants now in disgrace for doing even as the Romans were actually also "doing the Romans," it might have been expected that the chief complaints would have come from them, i.e. from the local Chinese. Yet it was not so; the Chinese gave their evidence reluctantly; and the Officer Administering the Government has publicly referred to the need of teaching the Chinese that it is as wicked to offer a bribe as to accept one. Leaving aside for a moment definitions of terms like "bribe" and "squeeze," will it be an easy thing to inculcate that lesson? That is a question. With the Chinese it would involve interference with "old custom," at all times a difficult matter with such a conservative people. Looking at the meaning of the words

moreover, it will be found that the Chinese do not endorse our definitions. They note a difference between "bribes" and "cumshaws" that we overlook, and the word "squeeze" is a foreign term often applied to transactions to which the Chinese would never dream of applying its vernacular equivalent. It is odd that a Christian nation, whose religion is all for giving, should exhibit such a general scepticism, not shared by the Oriental, with regard to the idea of "something for nothing." Except in the advertisements of wily traders, the phrase "something for nothing" is not to be found in the lexicon of Christendom. Even the British law is shy of any transfer of property without "consideration" or "value received." The Chinese, Japanese, and other Orientals do seem to recognise that there may be such a thing as an out-and-out gift sometimes. It almost looks as if, by their attitude towards "cumshaws" and perquisites, they recognise the uneven distribution of wealth, and acquiesce in these methods of adjustment. For generations it has been a fundamental principle with Chinese and Japanese that the rich should pay more than the poor for the same thing. In practice, although he is unaware of it, the foreigner operates reversely. The rich purchaser saves by taking a quantity; the poor buying at retail pay much per cent more for their necessities. In the Far East, therefore, your servant buying things for you, at the favourable rates to which his station entitles him, adds his commission to bring the price nearer what you would have to pay if you went shopping yourself. The shopkeeper, ultimately recognising that the goods are destined for one whom he regards as wealthy, perhaps arranges with your servant for a division of the spoil. The foreigner calls that "squeeze," but the Chinese do not. The foreigner is not being charged more than as a wealthy foreigner he ought to pay. This spirit, also, has given rise to the "cumshaw," which finds scriptural sanction, by the way, in the reference to not muzzling the ox.

CUBICLES.

(Daily Press, June 22nd.)

Perhaps because it is unthinkable, no one seems to have thought of one simple solution of the cubicle question. Yesterday's conversations based on our report of the Legislative Council mostly took a ton of satisfaction that the unofficial representatives had shown such unmistakable signs of their determination to "stand no official nonsense." We have published only one letter out of those submitted, selecting it for its brevity. Others merely said similar things at greater length. It is certainly gratifying to find that our chosen or elected representatives are not of the "dumb, driven cattle class," and we fear that the Hon. Mr. MA's promise of sympathetic consideration will by many people be discounted as a result of the official attempts to postpone discussion. As a matter of tactics, it might have been wiser for HIS EXCELLENCY to stretch a point, and let strict rules go. At the previous meeting he accepted the tacit indulgence of the Council, and spoke out of order, and the lesson he draws from the result is that "it just shows one ought never to break any rule." That is a hasty conclusion, and, not to be too seriously maintained. All rules require their exceptions, and after all, what harm has been done in the present case. We are so much further forward as a result of Mr. MA's breach, and still further as a result of those unofficial speakers who insisted on

following his bad example. There has to be a lull during the three months during which the Council stands adjourned, and this breaking of the ice will make it easier for those who will have to re-open the subject.

We began by hinting at a simple solution of the cubicle question which we fear will be considered "unthinkable." Unlike the Hon. Mr. POLLOCK, we are somewhat appalled by the prospect of having to spend eight million dollars on the scheme for admitting more light and air to Chinese tenements in the City. That is a large sum, and an expenditure which, in the present depressed condition of business, ratepayers will hardly face with equanimity. If we—they—could be assured that the scheme of removing every third block of houses is likely to be, as its suggesters believe, a thorough scheme; if we could feel certain that it would undoubtedly have the effect of materially reducing plague and other communicable disease,—then it would be the right thing to say "hang the expense." Eight millions or eighteen—what matter, so such a blessing be secured. But is it certain: can we be so sure? If the answer be "yes," we at once reply: "then let every third block of houses be removed; and hang the extra expense. It would be worth it all." The answer however is not, or ought not to be, a categorical affirmative. Light and air are good things, healthy things—no one disputes that; unless perhaps the Chinese themselves. But what is the good of taking pains to uproot your thistles if your neighbour lets his run riot? From Canton, to say nothing of Macao or elsewhere, the plague thistle flourishes according to the favour of the seasons, and its seeds come blowing into Hongkong. It will be retorted that if they find no dark cubicles they will fail to find lodgement; but that is too easy. It could just as easily be asserted that by making Chinese tenements more open, the bacilli would find readier ingress. Those who have followed the movement for erecting model dwellings for workmen as a municipal enterprise at Home have learned that a hygienic pigsty does not change swinish habits, nor eradicate disease. This is language more offensive than we would deliberately choose, but plain speech is needed to reveal the issue. The Chinese are the chief sufferers, and it is the Chinese themselves who must be got to make the right effort. It is a mistake to penalize Hongkong landlords to no purpose. An official orator drew a would-be pathetic comparison between local tenements and local stables, but this reference to the fortunate "dumb four footed animals" rather impels us to exclaim "hoity-toity," or some similar expressivism. If the Chinese coolie and his family shared the "naked and unashamed" innocence of the horses, the cubicle question would not have arisen; but there is an immoral microbe to guard against as well as a plaguey one, and cubicles are necessary evils. The places to be compared with our typical tenements are not horse repositories but the houses of the masses at Canton, where the plague comes from. But sometimes Hongkong epidemics are said to be worse than Canton epidemics. So much the better for our argument; the Canton tenements and streets are worse, from the sanitarian's point of view, so it seems it really does not matter much what is done. These are points, not too coherently collected, for consideration. By abolishing the cubicle ordinance, would we not save \$8,000,000, get rid of the present filthy rag substitutes, and have then only to see that the cubicles get regularly cleaned?

That is the simple solution, that has not been thought of perhaps because it is unthinkable.

OUR IMPERIAL OUTPOSTS.

(Daily Press, 22nd June.)

"Imperial Outposts" is the title of one of Mr. JOHN MURRAY's newest publications, and probably of one of the most important. The author of the book is Colonel A. M. MURRAY, and Lord ROBERTS in a preface says it is up-to-date and of peculiar value. With such a distinguished commendation there is no need for us to "review" it, but its matter deserves and demands what attention we can give it. References to Hongkong by two such Service men naturally first attract our notice, and it is a little disconcerting to find that all Lord ROBERTS has to say is a parrot-like repetition in the manner of the opium tract:

"The chapter on Hongkong recalls the recollection of a war—the Opium War of 1840—which was probably the least justifiable war ever waged by Great Britain. Whatever opinion may be held regarding the policy of that war, every right-minded person will join the author of 'Imperial Outpost' in his outspoken condemnation of the Indian opium traffic with China. That traffic is iniquitous and indefensible, and the sooner it can be suppressed the better for British credit."

Thus Lord ROBERTS, who is not too old yet to remember that all the "right-minded persons"—they invariably claim that monopoly—were not long ago describing the Boer war as he describes the "Opium War." Colonel MURRAY does see other things at Hongkong besides its opium hongs. He would rather that Great Britain had held Manila than either Hongkong or Singapore, because it commands both. "Given the possession of sufficient naval force, an American admiral can strike right or left, compelling his opponents to fight where it best suits his own purposes. Even without battleships, he says, the present China squadron represents a numerical preponderance of naval strength, but he hopes the station will not be left for long without one or more battleships. Then he comes to the title-deeds of the 'biggest port in the world,' and says they are unfortunately of bad origin. "No more unjustifiable war has ever been waged by a civilized nation. Cupidity was its cause, and cupidity of a demoralizing nature. The war can only be described as a successful piratical attempt to force an illicit traffic in a contraband and noxious drug on an unwilling people." Truly the late Sir H. POTTINGER cannot have foreseen what violent language would one day be based on his despatches, which might have been more carefully compiled if he had known more of the facts that were later unfolded. Hongkong harbour, the author goes on, after having eased his mind as in the quotation, is "perhaps the most beautiful of the world"; and is "most powerfully fortified." He is lavish of superlatives, whether praising or damning, and "it is satisfactory to know that the forts are armed with the best guns obtainable, and are manned by a superb force of British artillerymen. The land defence is another matter," and the military authorities are nothered to know how to hold an eleven mile frontier with the limited force available. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, it appears, offered the curious contention that "a frontier which is capable of attack is equally capable of defence," but that was probably spoon-fed to a globe-trotter, for our late Governor was not devoid of a quiet humour, and could enjoy "pulling a leg" sometimes. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, we read,

"has been as enterprising as the Tan-jong Pagar Company has been backward in carrying out improvements." There is the usual nonsense—we can call it nothing else—in which the characteristics of the Chinese nation are ascertained by observation of the "boys" at the Hongkong Hotel. "Conservative by instinct, the Chinaman obstinately refuses to surrender his heathen individuality, and be moulded on a Christian model. He is selfish and feelingless. Reserved by nature, untruthful by habit, inscrutable by character, he lives among Englishmen without social assimilation." How the Colonel could discover so much if his subject was indeed "inscrutable" is a mystery, and it does seem a little odd that after referring to his own people as the greedy authors of the wickedest war in history, he should go on to libel the Chinese so. Col. MURRAY's remark that the tile deeds by which we hold Hongkong are bad scarcely squares, moreover, with his regret—shared by us—that Great Britain did not also seize and hold Shanghai. But we have already given enough to show that those are like to be disappointed who expect to learn from this particular book anything particularly new about our Imperial Outposts. What the author might have told he is not allowed to tell, and what he does tell, well—we have heard it before, or something very like it.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 20th instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B. A.C.D.

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. MCL. MESSER, (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Captain-Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. H. M. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORN.

Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT gave notice that he would ask the following questions at the next meeting of the Council:—

(1) Will the Government state if it is proposed to recognise the special services rendered by certain Government officials in connection with a Commission appointed to enquire into the working of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance?

(2) If so, what, if any, special remuneration is it proposed to grant for the extra work undertaken by the following members of the Hongkong Civil Service:—Mr. Bowen Rowlands, Mr. J. Dyer Ball, Mr. A. Chapman, V.D.?

(3) Will this remuneration, if granted, be dealt with by a special vote in the Legislative Council?

(4) If not, has the proposed amount been already included in some previous vote, if so, which vote, or will the sum granted to those officials be paid out of Miscellaneous Charges?

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a bill entitled an Ordinance to amend

the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—At the last meeting of this Council when this bill was read for a first time your Excellency made some observations with reference to the housing question of this Colony, and more especially in connection with cubicles. Your Excellency stated amongst other things that you were satisfied that the existing law relating to cubicles has failed, and your Excellency also stated that you were in great hopes that the community as a whole would take the subject of cubicles into their most serious consideration, and try to arrive this time at some method of dealing with this question which will really settle it once for all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I don't see what this has to do with the bill.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It has to do with it. I am perfectly in order.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It has no value whatever.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It is a very great impertinence on the part of the Colonial Secretary to say it is of no value whatever. I think, Sir, the hon. member should be called to order. I am addressing your Excellency in Council with reference to the remarks made by your Excellency with reference to the proposal laid on the table at the last meeting, and I think if your Excellency had a right to address the Council on the question of cubicles on the first reading of the bill, I have an equal right on the second.

His EXCELLENCY—I think the hon. member is rather under a misapprehension. I stated that I had a purpose for the few remarks I made. I said I should not be in order and asked the indulgence of the Council to allow me to make some remarks which were out of order. I certainly think it would be much more convenient if the hon. member would defer his remarks till such time as a bill is submitted to the Council dealing with cubicles. We are now dealing with a bill which deals with a different subject, and the only reason this bill is being introduced before the general amending ordinance is that there are various papers hung up owing to want of legal power to grant exemptions under section 175; hence the reason we put this forward before the general amendment bill. I must rule the hon. member out of order in going into the general question. He must abide by the rules of the Council. The statement I made the other day was a very short one. I allowed another hon. member a good deal of licence to make a personal explanation, but now the hon. member wants to go into the whole question, which, I think, is very inconvenient.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I propose to make observations on your Excellency's remarks at the last meeting of the Council. I claim my right to do so.

His EXCELLENCY—If the hon. member insists it just shows that one ought never to break any rule.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I do not see why I should not be allowed to answer your Excellency's observations on the first reading. It is a monstrous thing for your Excellency, administering the Government, to claim a licence which is denied to me.

His EXCELLENCY—I did not claim it. I asked the leave of the Council.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It is not likely any member would intervene.

His EXCELLENCY—The hon. member may go on.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Will you excuse me, Sir. There is one point to which I would like to refer.

His EXCELLENCY—You are certainly not in order now. I don't know what you are speaking to.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—In my remarks to this Council I cannot refrain from expressing extreme surprise at the attitude you have taken up upon the question of cubicles, and I have every right to express that surprise because your Excellency has made remarks which you say are not to be criticised until the proper time comes. Your Excellency stated truly that the question of cubicles is one of the most important with which this Council has to deal, and you laid a certain proposal before the Council and as far as I know it was submitted to the Council for the

first time at the last meeting. I think Sir, as it is an important question, as you stated, and as it is a question with regard to which your Excellency admitted there has been failure—complete failure—that we cannot take too early an opportunity of addressing ourselves to this question with a view to putting an end to that failure—failure is by no means too strong a word to apply to the past sanitary policy on the question of cubicles. It seems to me, so far as cubicles are concerned, that your Excellency is quite correct in stating that an important point which will have to be borne in view in the future is the question of the provision of lateral windows. But, Sir, I do not agree with all the suggestions which I understand were put forward by the Government in connection with this matter. With regard to the best scheme in connection with cubicles, speaking for myself, I think there can be no doubt that the best scheme laid before the community so far, is the scheme mooted some four years ago, namely, that in Chinatown upper storeys of every third house should be pulled down with a view to the provision of lateral windows for the houses standing on either side. I understand, Sir, there was an objection raised against this being done in view of the fact that the walls of houses on either side of the house proposed to be pulled down might require strengthening, or in some instances rebuilding. I think, Sir, however, that this scheme is such a good one, that such difficulties as I have mentioned ought not to stand in the way of its being adopted. No doubt means can be found for strengthening the walls, or if that is impracticable, for rebuilding them. It is simply and solely a question of money. There is nothing impossible in the operation.

His EXCELLENCY—Have you any idea how much money would be involved?

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—No, but I would be glad if your Excellency would inform me.

His EXCELLENCY—At the lowest computation, \$8,000,000.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—For the whole thing?

His EXCELLENCY—That is correct.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Your Excellency apparently thought I was going to be knocked down by these figures. I am not, as I was quite prepared to know that a considerable expenditure would be incurred. \$8,000,000 does not appear to me a very large sum to carry out a scheme which, unlike many schemes in the past, will be a thorough scheme. I think this scheme, Sir, is the only one I have ever heard of for settling the question once and for all. So far there has been a certain amount of tinkering. I quite agree with your Excellency that in sanitary matters there has been considerable improvement since the plague year of 1894, but your Excellency frankly admits that the settlement of the cubicle question has failed.

I don't myself feel alarmed if this very necessary matter should involve a cost of \$8,000,000, and I am not at all surprised to hear it will involve something in the neighbourhood of that expenditure. Your Excellency and the Council have to consider what we shall get in return for such expenditure. I submit we shall have an enormous sanitary improvement in the Colony. It will be an enormous boon to the Colony from the point of view of public health to have every third house in Chinatown pulled down, and to have a free current of air and light going through where every third house was. I think, Sir, that it is a big scheme, but it is a scheme that should commend itself to the consideration of the community as deserving of the epithet thorough being applied to it and as opposed to some half hearted and dilatory measures which have been carried out.

His EXCELLENCY—Who is to bear the cost?

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I am coming to that Sir. With reference to the question of at whose cost this reform is to be carried out, I certainly, Sir, don't agree with what I consider the stereotyped Government view, that the whole of this cost of pulling down third houses should be borne by the owners of the adjacent houses. I think Sir, that in a case like this the Government should certainly give a grant in regard to which, however, it is difficult to state the precise proportion. I simply throw out the matter tentatively for discussion. We will have to thresh out the exact amount of compensation to be assessed. If you ask me to give my idea I

would say this: It seems to me that it would be a fair compensation that the owners on each side of the house to be pulled down should contribute one third each towards the cost, and the Government the rest. This is rather a rough idea of my own. The owners of houses on either side, I suggest, should contribute in the proportion I mention, because no doubt they will benefit considerably by this, in that they will be able to have a considerable number of windows laterally put into their houses, a number of rooms opening into external air and legal according to the public Health Ordinance. Therefore it is only right, Sir, that they should contribute to this matter, and I see from a proposal laid before the Council at the last meeting that the Government intends apparently to allow in case of lateral windows certain concessions with reference to space and internal air space. With reference, Sir, to it being right and proper for the Government to grant some compensation, I would refer your Excellency to section 308 of the English Public Health Act of 1875. It is clearly laid down there, Sir, that if radical sanitary improvements are ordered by the local authorities, owners of property are to receive compensation. In the present instance I don't think, in view of the fact that owners of houses on either side gain considerable benefit, and in view of the fact that the Government are prepared to meet them, that all these alterations should be carried out at the public expense. I should like, Sir, before quitting this subject, to say again that this figure which your Excellency mentioned, which I suppose would include the whole of the cost of every third house pulled down, does not seem to me formidable in view of the immense gain to be accomplished. The Council of this Colony last year devoted a sum of a million or so of dollars to railways in the middle of China. If, Sir, we can do that, I don't see why, when a loan is proposed for a very necessary public matter here in our midst, the Government should pull a long face and tell us that this is a poor and bankrupt Colony, and cannot afford the loan for these urgent public works. I know, Sir, that is the usual attitude of the Government. Something must be done, and I think your Excellency will agree with me that the sooner it is done the better, and I don't think, Sir, with all due deference to the Government that any of the proposals laid on the table at the last meeting of council at all meet the case. Your Excellency truly pointed out at the last meeting of the Council that it is most desirable, with a view to the prevention of plague and other diseases which cause great losses to the Colony, that if we are going to attack the burning question we should attack it with spirit and settle it once for all. With the Government proposal to settle it once for all, it would take 30 or 40 or 50 years to effect any considerable improvement. I think, Sir, we recognise that this is a very important question, and it is a question which cannot be attacked too soon. I ventured to bring forward these remarks, Sir, because it seemed to me, reading as I did about this most urgent question, that it was desirable something should be laid before the Council for discussion. And I venture to bring before the Council a certain point in which, with all due respect, I differ from your Excellency's view; that is, that every improvement should be paid for by the owners of houses.

His EXCELLENCY—You cannot say that in face of the Statute of 1903, which shows that a very large proportion of cases, in fact in all cases, where improvements are made compensation is given by the Government.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Some are, Sir; some are not.

His EXCELLENCY—You said just now all are.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Perhaps your Excellency is right there. I do not want to deprive you of the credit of scoring a point.

His EXCELLENCY—I do not want to score points. I want accuracy.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—But with reference to 3B in the Government proposals, I fail to see there, Sir, reference to any compensation. I would draw special attention to that section. This is what the Government say: (reads). Well, Sir, apparently the Government proposes, when then contiguous

houses are rebuilt, to insist on the provision of lateral windows.

His EXCELLENCY—And to grant—

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—And to grant certain exemptions which will be beneficial to the tenants.

His EXCELLENCY—The landowner, I submit, will lose nothing.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I should like to see that worked out; I have very great doubts with reference to the question.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is no bill before you.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I must ask that the Colonial Secretary be not allowed to make these remarks. I am much astonished that he is.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is no bill before you, I said.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It is a very serious thing the way in which these proposals were received by your Excellency, apparently to avert a discussion on the question. I was simply astounded at your Excellency telling us that this was one of the most important things we had to deal with and that we should try to arrange the matter once for all, and then not desiring to hear me on the subject.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Your Excellency. I understand that the official view of the case is that we are discussing the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Building Ordinance, 1903. That being so it appears to me that although the Bill at the moment before the Council is dealing only with a very small matter, it is an amending bill for the main Ordinance of 1903.

His EXCELLENCY—Is the hon. member going to deal with the memorandum generally?

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I wish to make some remarks in connection with the proposed amendment and on the amendments generally of the Bill of 1903.

His EXCELLENCY—Then I must rule the hon. member out of order.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Your Excellency—

His EXCELLENCY—Excuse me. I allowed the last speaker to proceed because he insisted upon criticising certain remarks on the one definite question of cubicles which I was foolish enough to think the Council would allow me to speak on at the last meeting. Apparently the Council was not in favour of that course, but did not like to intervene. It is quite intelligible that the hon. member should desire to revert to that question, but I cannot allow you now to try to cover the whole field or any part of it outside the cubicle question or the bill before the Council.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Your Excellency. I do not wish to say anything beyond that which was said by the hon. member opposite. I wish to make one reference to the main Ordinance of 1903, mainly because I do not wish to run the risk later on when the Bill becomes law of being told by members of the Government that we allowed an amending ordinance to pass without any remarks on our part. I only wish to emphasise what the hon. member has said; if Your Excellency insists upon ruling me out of order I—

His EXCELLENCY—I do not know what the point is on which you wish to speak—on what section?

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I am going to speak on section 175, sub-section 4.

His EXCELLENCY—Then you are in order.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I beg your Excellency's pardon: I am speaking on the whole section.

His EXCELLENCY—Very well.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—The remarks I have to make are, as I explained, to protect myself in the future from the possibility of misunderstanding. I do not want an amending ordinance of this kind to pass without a few words being said on one of the most important sections of the ordinance. My hon. and learned colleague has already referred to section 308 of the Public Health Act of 1875. I did not know he was going to do so, and I brought a copy of the Act. I will read the section. (Reads the section referring to compensation.) The point I wish to make, Your Excellency, is, carrying on the discussion which took place last week in this chamber, that a large section of the community is not satisfied with the compensation provided for in the existing ordinance and which Your Excellency considers

satisfactory. I merely wish to draw attention to the fact that the Public Health Act of 1875 which admits the principle that where a man suffers damage, that is to say, where his property is depreciated by sanitary reforms forced upon him, he is entitled to receive compensation.

His EXCELLENCY—If the property is insanitary?

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—That is the question to be decided. I would remind Your Excellency that there are an enormous number of properties which were perfectly sanitary up to the 20th February, 1903, and which were immediately rendered insanitary by the passing of this very drastic ordinance. The compensation which the property owners demanded as their right was set forth and fully dealt with in the petition to the Government in December of the previous year. Property suddenly, by the passing of this Act, was rendered insanitary. If the Government attempt to shelter themselves behind the fact that the houses are insanitary because they do not comply with the new ordinance, then all I can say is that the Government is acting with far less justice than the Home Government, which admitted this principle 30 or 40 years ago. I think it was necessary to make these few remarks in order to prevent possible misconception in the future.

The Hon. Mr. OSBORN—Your Excellency. In the absence of any statement of objects and reasons for the Bill before this Council, I wondered why it had been brought forward. With Your Excellency's explanation to-day I see that it has been brought forward for a definite purpose—that is, to get over a temporary difficulty. I desire also to place on record that I reserve to myself the right on a future occasion to address the Council on the subject generally and not to-day.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Honourable members—unofficial hon. members do not seem to be aware of the right they have to forward notice of resolutions on any point whatever that they wish to raise, at the proper time preceding any meeting of the Council in which they can discuss any question in the public interest. There is, however, I maintain, no occasion now to discuss the question of cubicles, because that is not involved in the bill under discussion. Before proceeding to take the division on the second reading of the Bill I would like to make a few remarks in reply to those passed by the hon. member nominated by the Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of the first reading. If I am correct, he said, speaking on behalf of Mr. Hooper and other European owners—

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Your Excellency, I only spoke on behalf of Mr. Hooper.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. Hewett is reported to have said "I do not think that it was quite right that the Government should take advantage and make capital out of a letter written in a moment of misconception by a gentleman who had some five years later been a member of the Commission." Now this charge practically amounts to one of unfairness against the Government. The words "should take advantage and make capital out of" are, I maintain, unwarrantable. The simple facts of the case are: When the Government decided that this letter should be laid on the table, it was not in the slightest degree aware that there was any contemplated repudiation by Mr. Hooper, or on behalf of other European landowners. There was no desire in the mind of the Government to convict Mr. Hooper of any inconsistency in regard to the matter. The paper would have been laid on the table even if it had been signed by any person other than Mr. Hooper and if he had not been a member of the Commission it would still have been laid on the table. This action was taken without any *arrière pensée* on the part of the Government in order to strengthen their position and to show that all possible concessions on the question of compensation had already been made. As regards the question of the value of Mr. Hooper's letter after its repudiation I have only to point out that the circumstances are somewhat as follows: On the 28th September, 1902, the European landowners petitioned the Government and asked for compensation. They quoted cases in regard to various matters. One was Knight v. Moses, July 1902. They were informed in reply to their petition that the Government had already

considered most of the points concerned in the Bill. That was the answer given to the petitioners. Before that Sir, we had a commission on the subject of the Public Health Ordinance. This was quoted by the Attorney-General on the occasion of the second reading of the Bill which subsequently became law. The Attorney-General in his speech quoted from the report of the Commissioners (reads from report) I may here say that these quotations are practically correct. The Bill was read a second time on that day. That was in November, 1902. No further discussion took place on section 175. The community was apparently well satisfied that the compensation subject had been properly dealt with in a generous spirit by the Government. The letter laid on the table was dated 3rd December, 1902, and the bill did not become law till February, 1903; it is therefore perfectly obvious that they had ample opportunity to represent to the Government the fact that their representation on the subject of compensation had not been properly dealt with. The hon. member further said "When he wrote that letter he was under the impression that the Government had honestly and loyally adopted the recommendations put forward in the report which had been drawn up at the instance of the landowners. I submit that the inference from his statement was that the Government had not dealt with the matter honestly and loyally. I think I have given sufficient facts to show that the Government had dealt with the subject as honestly and loyally as they could, and the hon. member's remarks on the subject were entirely unjustified."

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Your Excellency, May I make a personal explanation?

His EXCELLENCY—You are not in order. You have already made your personal explanation on behalf of Mr. Hooper at the last meeting.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I submit Sir when the Colonial Secretary quotes from *Hansard* or some other source with special regard to remarks made by me at the last meeting, I am absolutely within my rights.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I could not reply to your remarks at the last meeting.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Surely the hon. member is entitled to answer the Colonial Secretary who has criticised him.

Mr. POLLOCK and Mr. HEWETT were now speaking together.

His EXCELLENCY—Will you allow me to speak.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Yes.

His EXCELLENCY—If the explanation is purely personal—

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I have told your Excellency that it is purely a personal explanation, and only on that ground I demand it. I told your Excellency that I wished to make a personal explanation with reference to the quotations made by the Colonial Secretary from a report of the speech made by me at the last meeting of the Council. I do not know from what source the Hon. the Colonial Secretary obtained his version, if from *Hansard* the report is not a verbatim one but it is substantially correct. I have nothing to withdraw, nothing to apologise for, and nothing to take back. I stand by that. (The Hon. Mr. Pollock: hear, hear)

His EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, I think I have already explained the reasons why I did not want the hon. member on my left to proceed. I have no desire to burke discussion and I wish to say that I am not afraid of criticism either of what I write or say. As a matter of fact I rather enjoy it, but it seemed to me that on a future occasion when the general amending bill came to be considered his remarks would come in more fittingly. The hon. member has suggested a scheme for dealing with cubicles. I do not want to take up the time of the Council by going into it now. He made rather light of the expenditure, and there is one word of warning I would like to utter on that point because it may weigh with him and others in considering that scheme. At the present time this colony is in a very difficult position. We have a very large railway scheme on hand which is not going to prove a gold mine. We have our currency in a very deplorable condition got, I submit, through the fault of the Government,

but through a combination of various circumstances. We have the opium question looming in the background and our insatiable Director of Public Works waits us to incur an expenditure of three million dollars in increasing our water supply. In these circumstances, gentlemen, I do not think that any matter which runs into millions of dollars is within the region of consideration. In the compensation of which the hon. member nominated by the Chamber of Commerce spoke, I do not think that his quotation from the Public Health Act will altogether help him. The origin, as the Colonial Secretary pointed out, of this sub-section of section 175 which requires open spaces in the rear of houses is the report of the Insanitary Properties Commission, acknowledged to be one of the strongest commissions that ever sat in this Colony, composed of no less than Sir Paul Chater, Sir Thomas Jackson, Mr. Thomas Whitehead, Mr. Nathaniel Ede, and the former Colonial Secretary. This Commission reported after personal investigation that they regretted to have to report that there were many insanitary properties and dwellings which were unfit for human habitation under their present condition. (Quotes) "We regret to report that there are many insanitary properties in the colony and dwellings which in their present condition are unfit for human habitation. The back portions of a number of the houses visited by us are dark, ill ventilated, extremely dirty and in some cases mere dens of filth." They made recommendations which the Colonial Secretary read—"The said properties should be improved in the manner suggested and carried out by the owners at their own cost." Now it was given in evidence before that Commission that in compelling owners to make insanitary properties sanitary the Government were only doing what they could compel those owners to do in another way. (Quotes from section empowering magistrate to declare a house unfit for human habitation.) That is the same as in England. If the Sanitary Authority is of opinion that property is unfit for human habitation they have to apply to a Magistrate for an order before they can compel these premises to be closed or made fit for habitation. Gentlemen: In addition to the evidence given before the Commission, and in addition to the recommendation of these high authorities, I beg to add my evidence. I was on the special Commission of the Sanitary Board in 1894 when we closed and sealed up scores and scores of these houses on the ground of being unfit for human habitation. And they were unfit for human habitation. I venture to say that the lower classes of this town are in many cases not as well housed as the dumb four footed animals in Mr. Kennedy's stables in Causeway Bay. There each horse has one window. The hon. member nominated by the Chamber of Commerce remarked that certain houses in 1902 were sanitary, and became insanitary by the operation of this law of 1903. Gentlemen, we took the power to grant modifications in hard cases where properties were not altogether insanitary, and we are now taking power to deal with certain conditions which affect a block of houses which I venture to say the hon. member had in his mind when he spoke. The property belongs to the Humphreys Estate Company and is situated at Kowloon.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Really, I cannot all that to pass. When I spoke I had no particular property in my mind. I was speaking on a general principle of the Act which was suddenly brought into force, making a large amount of property in the Colony insanitary. I take objection to your assertions, with all due respect to your high position, and object to your trying to twist my words to imply that I am working in the interest of some individual members of the Community, more particularly Mr. Humphreys, one of my late colleagues on the Sanitary Commission. I roll no man's log, I sharpen no man's axe. I object to your imputations which are as unworthy as they are untrue.

His EXCELLENCY—I did not twist your words.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—You imputed motives to me which I repudiate.

His EXCELLENCY—I said that I thought you had these buildings in your mind when you spoke.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—No sir, I had not.

His EXCELLENCY—Very well; I accept your explanation. I thought that it might be so, because the property was so particularly referred to in the Report of the Commission. The Colonial Secretary has explained that the question of compensation under this particular section was put forward in 1903, and did not commend itself to this Council, and the Government are determined not to reopen the question. You will also find that in the debates on that Ordinance of 1903 mention was made of compensation for loss of cubicles. It was agreed by this Council that such compensation should not be granted. The Government do not propose now to reopen the question of compensation for cubicles.

The motion was agreed to.

The Council went into committee to consider the Bill.

On resuming.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL, in the absence of objection, moved the third reading of the bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE NEDERLANDSCH-INDISCHE HANDELSBANK.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance for giving to a Foreign Company called the Nederlandsch-Indische Handelsbank certain facilities for carrying on its business in the Colony.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into committee and considered the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through committee without amendment.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

Council adjourned *sine die*.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

Following is the Sessional Paper containing the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission, and the proposals of the Government thereon laid before the Legislative Council on June 13th.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Open spaces.

Section 175.

Paragraphs 25-58.

Sub-section (1).

Words "by the owner" to be deleted; private lanes and public streets in the rear to be allowed to count as open spaces. Compensation for loss of land devoted to provision of open space to be provided for.

Sub-section (2).

See paragraphs 36-38.

Unintelligible and unworkable—to be revised.

Sub-section (4).

Sanitary Board to be employed to grant, with the consent of the Governor-in-Council, exemption as well as modification.

CUBICLES.

Sections 153, 154.

Paragraph 73.

Require careful consideration and thorough revision.

PROPOSALS.

Words "by the owner" for reasons given in the Colonial Secretary's minute will not be deleted.

Private lanes, if in the same ownership as the houses abutting on them, are now allowed to count as open spaces.

For reasons given in the Colonial Secretary's minute compensation will not be granted.

Will not be amended.

A Bill to give effect to this stands in the Orders of the Day.

1. In houses that existed before the passing of Ordinance 23 of 1903, the Board has ample power with the consent of the Governor-in-Council to grant modification and exemption from the law which, therefore, requires no amendment, except to place the power of modification or exemption in the hands of another body.

2. As regards houses built since that date the Government is prepared to confer power

for granting similar modification and exemption.

3 As regards re-erected houses the Government is prepared to amend the law on the following lines:—

(a.) To give power to a qualified Body to permit cubicles in special cases (e.g., when one or two houses in a row have to be re-erected).

(b.) In other cases (e.g., when three or more contiguous houses are re-built to insist on provision of lateral windows opening into external air, except where the floor can be adequately lit and ventilated by sky-lights, but to permit the inhabitation of the floors in the proportion not exceeding one adult to every 30 square feet of habitable floor space and 400 cubic feet of internal air space.

4. When houses are erected on land hitherto unoccupied by domestic buildings, to insist on provision of lateral windows opening into external air, except where the floor can be adequately lit and ventilated by sky-lights, on the same conditions as to proportion of inhabitants of the floor as 3 (b) above.

5. To take power to exempt from the provision of lateral windows in special cases (e.g., houses of a European type) in both 3 (b) and 4.

BUILDING AUTHORITY.

Section 205 & 230.

Paragraph 78.

Inconsistent in the matter of delegation.

No alteration is proposed. (See Colonial Secretary's minute).

Paragraph 80.

Secretary of Sanitary Board not to be deputed by Building Authority to issue notices under Part III. Section 230.

Under consideration.

Building nuisances should not be dealt with by the Principal Civil Medical Officer but by an Engineer.

This is agreed to in so far as technical engineering matters are concerned.

MORTAR.

Paragraph 89.

Mr. Ough's report on 'Test applied to Mortar to be carefully considered by the Government.

Noted.

CONCRETING.

Section 112.

Paragraph 94.

The phrase "make good" has been unauthorisedly interpreted as "re-concrete."

This has been remedied.

Paragraph 104.

(a) Sections 111, 112, 140 to be consolidated.

This appears to be unnecessary.

Paragraph 102.

(b) Definite specification for mixing and laying lime concrete to be adopted.

This matter may be left to the Authorised Architects.

(c) Building Inspector to supervise the concreting of floors.

This would involve a large staff and is considered impracticable.

(d) Certificate to be given that the work has been carried out. Such certificate to hold good as against all but surface repairs for eight years in the case of lime concrete and for fifteen years in the case of cement concrete. The certificate should exempt owners from opening up ground surface of their houses and require them only to repair broken surfaces during the period of certificate.

Considered impracticable. (See Director of Public Works' minute.)

Section 140.

Paragraph 105.

Internal surface of kitchen walls to be rendered in cement mortar to a height of 18 inches instead of 4 feet.

Under consideration.

Paragraph 108.

Certificate to be granted on completion to protect owner from doing the work a second time.

Considered impracticable. (See Director of Public Works' minute)

Paragraph 107.

Work of passing concreting of ground surfaces and rendering of walls in cement mortar to be done by Civil Engineer and not by the Medical Authorities.

It is proposed to put new work under the Director of Public Works.

LIMEWASHING.

Paragraph 116.

If periodical cleanings are undertaken under supervision of the Sanitary Board:

Government is prepared to consider recommendations of the Sanitary Board for amendment of Bye-laws.

(a) Compulsory limewashing may be found unnecessary.

(b) Shops and respectable Chinese houses should not be placed on the same footing as common lodging-houses and opium dens.

Government is prepared to consider recommendations of the Sanitary Board for amendment of Bye-laws.

Paragraph 127.

Delay in passing plans to be remedied by concentration of work done by Building Authority in the Sanitary Department.

Section 230. The Government proposes to take steps to avoid circumlocution and delay, but not in the manner suggested.

Paragraph 134.

Delay in passing work to be remedied in the same way.

The Government proposes to take steps to avoid circumlocution and delay, but not in the manner suggested.

Paragraph 143.

Employment of an Authorised Architect in cases of repair entails hardship.

See Director of Public Works' minute.

DELAY IN PASSING DRAINS.

Paragraph 136.

Post of Sanitary Surveyor to be abolished. Work to be placed under an Executive Engineer. See New Scheme.

It is proposed to put the work under the Public Works Department.

DISINFECTION AND GENERAL CLEANSING.

Paragraphs 156-157.

More supervision required.

The Government proposes to appoint a Head of the Department who can devote the whole of his time to the Department.

Paragraph 161.

Bye-laws for prevention and mitigation of infectious diseases to be revised and remodelled.

Government is awaiting recommendations of the Sanitary Board in the matter.

Paragraph 162.

Permission should be given in certain cases for plague patients to be treated in their own houses.

Under consideration

Paragraph 162.

Permission for moribund cases to be so treated should be always given.

It is agreed that this may be done when the patient really is moribund.

Paragraph 163.

Disinfection of premises to be left to the inmates under supervision of the Sanitary Board and of a member of the Kai Fong, or Street Committee, to be established for the purpose.

As at present advised the Government does not agree.

Paragraph 164.

Free dispensaries and District Plague Hospitals to be encouraged.

If encouraged means pecuniarily supported, the question involving

avel (P.C., supported) as it does additional expenditure requires careful consideration.

BAT CATCHERS.

Paragraph 169.

Instruction to be drawn up for their guidance and more supervision over their work to be exercised.

Under consideration.

Paragraphs 181, 182.

More supervision by others than Inspectors to be given to carrying out of various contracts.

This is a question of staff and expenses which will receive consideration.

MARKETS.

Paragraph 196.

Killing room at Central Market to be enlarged.

Under consideration.

Inspector of Markets.

Under consideration.

CEMETERIES.

Paragraphs 210, 23.

(1) Cemetery Bye-laws to be revised and strictly enforced.

The Government awaits the Board's recommendations for amendment of Bye-laws.

(2) Lo Chang to be dismissed and banished.

Not acted on.

(3) A better class of men to be put in charge of the Chinese Cemeteries.

With proper supervision this seems unnecessary.

(4) Cemeteries should not be leased to denominational bodies.

Not agreed to.

(5) Plans of cemeteries should be exhibited at the cemeteries.

It does not appear that this would serve any useful purpose.

BURIALS AND BURIAL ORDERS.

Paragraph 214.

Certificates of death not to be issued by Sanitary Inspectors.

This recommendation is being acted on as far as practicable as far as uncertified bodies in houses in Victoria and Kowloon are concerned.

Paragraph 215.

All dead bodies to be inspected by the Medical Officer of Health.

This is being done in Victoria and Kowloon as far as practicable as far as uncertified dead bodies in houses are concerned.

NOTICES.

Paragraph 221.

Schedule D and L.

(1) All notices should bear the name of the reporting inspector, and the date on which the inspector reported the premises.

The Office records already show this. It is obviously undesirable to put the name of reporting Inspector in the notice. Agreed to.

(2) Paragraph to be added to notice to the effect that if the person named in the notice is dissatisfied with its requirements, he should report the fact to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board.

Agreed to.

(3) Record to be kept of these complaints which should be dealt with by the Board or a Committee of the Board.

No objection to this.

(4) Paragraph to be inserted warning the person named in the notice to report if any officer of the Department demands money or presents from him.

Under consideration.

PROSECUTIONS.

Paragraph 224.

(1) Prosecutions for breaches of the Ordinance should not be left to the Sanitary Inspectors only.

No prosecution is ever instituted without the authority of the Medical Officer of Health, Principal Civil Medical Officer or Director of Public Works.

Paragraph 229.

(2) Convictions should not be obtained unless the evidence of the Sanitary Inspector is corroborated by that of the Medical Officer of Health or Executive Engineer.

It is impracticable to give effect to this. The Inspector is bound to produce evidence to the satisfaction of the Magistrate.

Paragraph 230.

(3) In cases when the defendant has to obtain legal assistance and expert advice, and the Magistrate does not convict, the defendant should be allowed costs.

Not agreed to.

(4) In no case should a prosecution be allowed unless a notice to abate the nuisance has been served on the owner or occupier.

Such notices are always served in the case of nuisances.

OVERCROWDING.

Paragraph 232.

Special type of houses to be authorised for Chinese occupation to be of one or two storeys only and of cheap construction.

This recommendation has been anticipated as far as villages in outlying districts are concerned. The question of extension of the principle will be considered.

ENTRY AND INSPECTION OF BUILDING.

Paragraph 243.

For night visits a separate permit should be issued for each house with date of the intended visit entered thereon.

No objection to this.

ENFORCEMENT OF SANITARY AND BUILDING REGULATIONS IN OUTLYING DISTRICTS.

Paragraph 246.

Special exemption of enforcement of such regulations to be made in the case of outlying districts.

Under consideration. See Director of Public Works' minute.

ESTIMATES.

Paragraph 255.

The Sanitary Board should have full opportunity for considering and discussing the Estimates of the Sanitary Department, before they are sent in to the Government.

This is agreed to.

BOOK, ACCOUNTS AND CLERICAL WORK.

Paragraph 269-273.

(1) Assistant Secretary should be a man with some commercial training, and of British race.

This recommendation has been noted.

(2) Proper books to be kept

Improvements in the books kept are being made.

(3) Proper store accounts to be kept.

This has been acted on.

(4) Correspondence to be first opened by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

Instructions are being issued accordingly.

(5) Use of chop by Secretary to be discontinued.

Instructions are being issued accordingly.

(6) Staff to be re-organised.

Under consideration.

STANDING ORDERS.

Paragraph 283.

Board should have full power to make Standing Orders for the guidance of Officers of the Board, and should have full power to direct the officers and servants of the Board to carry out those orders.

It is not proposed to depart from the principle of having an Administrative Head of Department.

The Board's orders to pass through the hands of the Secretary whose duty it should be to see them carried out.

SUPERVISION OF STAFF.

Paragraph 284.

More personal supervision by the Medical Officers of Health over the Inspectors desirable.

This has been noted.

COMPLAINTS.

Paragraph 293.

(1) Record of complaints by the public to be kept.

Agreed to.

(2) Investigation be made by Senior Officer of Sub-department to which the complaint refers.

The Administrative Head of the Department should inquire.

(3) Complaints and report of action taken thereon to be laid before the Board.

It is considered that this should be left to the Administrative Head of the Department.

(4) Some simple form of appeal required.

A letter of complaint to the Board seems the simplest form of appeal.

PRESENTS.

Paragraph 299.

These which are contrary to regulation sometimes take the form of free lunches.

Sufficiently dealt with under existing regulations.

NEW SCHEME.

The full recommendations of the Commission under the new scheme are quoted *in extenso*.

These have already been published in our columns. The Government's proposal on the new scheme is in the following terms:—

It is not proposed to adopt the principal recommendations under this heading for the following reasons:—

1. It is considered absolutely necessary that there should be an administrative head of the Sanitary Department and it is proposed to appoint an officer who shall be able to devote the whole of his time to the department.

In this course Sir Matthew Nathan agreed in a minute which he has left on record.

2. It is not considered desirable in the public interest that the Sanitary Board should be constituted the Building Authority with an Executive Engineer as the Chief Executive Officer for performing the duties coming within the scope of the Building Authority.

It is probable that the Commissioners do not intend that the Sanitary Board should be invested with all the extensive powers of the Building Authority which cover every sort of work including reclamations, resumptions, the building of factories, docks, piers and other large enterprises.

It is more likely that they mean that the Sanitary Board should be constituted the Building Authority for the examination and passing of plans of buildings of a domestic type or of other types if to be erected in the more populous parts of Kowloon or within the City boundaries.

If such is really their proposal then it means that there must be two Building Authorities.

To such a proposal there are the following strong objections:—

(a) The change will not effect the object in view, which is ostensibly the saving in time in passing plans for buildings and house-drainage work. The roads (including alterations of levels, diversions, etc.), water works, storm water drainage, sewerage, encroachments over Crown land, whether of a permanent type by the erection of verandahs and balconies or of a temporary nature by erection of hoardings and scaffoldings, will still be in the hands of the other Building Authority (the Director of Public Works), and cross references will still be necessary and the source of delays which now exists will only be perpetuated in another form.

(b) How is the line to be drawn between the buildings to be under the control of the Building Authority of the Sanitary Board and those to be under the control of the Director of Public Works in his capacity as Building Authority? The only system that appears likely to be successful would be to allow certain areas to the former and the remaining areas in the Colony to the latter.

That is the system adopted where a Municipality exists in other Crown Colonies, but such

municipalities also exercise control over the roads, sewers and, in some cases, over the water works as well, within their boundaries.

In this young and growing Colony it is considered that such division of spheres of control would not be satisfactory.

Large schemes of development are frequently carried out in the very heart of the old Colony involving intricate and often confidential negotiations with the parties interested.

It appears questionable whether such matters could be dealt with as successfully, and with equal acceptance to those parties if the proposals of the Commissioners were adopted.

(c) Under existing conditions, if any difference of opinion arises with the Executive Engineer who performs all the ordinary duties imposed on the Building Authority, the matter is at once referred to the high authority of the Director of Public Works.

It is obvious that an Executive Engineer on £630 a year will not be an officer of sufficient standing to deal successfully with the practising engineers and architects in the Colony on the very many knotty points that will constantly arise between them in which the interests of property owners (the employers of the said engineers and architects) and what are after all the interests of the public at large will clash.

Nor would such an Executive Engineer carry sufficient weight to impose his will on his master:—the members of the Sanitary Board—the only one of whom who has any technical engineering knowledge is the Director of Public Works.

Let it be supposed for a moment that practising architects do not accept a ruling of the Board's Building Authority and appeal to the Board. Where is the Board to seek advice in such a case but from the Director of Public Works? A source of friction is thus at once opened between the two authorities.

4. It is considered that the object in view namely, the saving of circumlocution in passing plans and the facilitation of construction work under the Ordinance generally, can be attained in a much simpler way by some such arrangement as is sketched in the Director of Public Works' minute of the 18th of April, 1907, and the Government is quite willing to discuss the details of such an arrangement.

5. Finally it is proper to state that when the Director of Public Works' minute of the 18th April had been considered by Sir Matthew Nathan the latter left on record a minute in which he expressed his agreement with the objections which the Director of Public Works has raised to this proposal of the Commissioners.

6. There are minor points in the paragraphs under the heading new scheme which will receive consideration.

F. H. M.

12th June, 1907.

A Peking message to Japanese contemporaries gives the substance of a treaty relating to the Tairen Customs just signed between Sir Robert Hart and Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister in Peking. The message states that the treaty is almost identical with that for the Kiauchau Customs, with slight amendments in accordance with local requirements. Article I. provides that the Customs Staff shall be exclusively Japanese and Article II. requires the Chinese authorities to give previous notice when the Director of the Customs is changed. In Article III., it is provided that official correspondence between the Customs and the Japanese authorities shall be written in Japanese, while communications between the Customs and Chinese and foreigners are to be written in English. Article IV. provides that the whole of the Kwantung district shall be regarded as a free trade zone, so that imported articles consumed in the district shall be free of duty, while no duty shall be imposed on the export of goods produced in the district. Chinese merchandise imported into the district and re-exported with additions or alterations made to them shall be subjected to a duty only for the materials used. Article V. provides that the Tairen Customs will be allowed to grant permits to steamers going out and entering Tairen from Chinese unopened ports. Article VI. provides that mails shall not be managed at the Tairen Customs, but the Chinese mails brought to Tairen will be dealt with by the Japanese Postal authorities there. The treaty comes into force on July 1st next.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 14th June.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

ALLEGED BREACH OF AGREEMENT.

The case in which the Indo-China Steam Navigation Coy., Ltd., sued Dr. T. Lancelot Wyndham for \$1,000 for breach of agreement was mentioned.

Mr. O. D. Thomson, who appeared for defendant, explained that the defendant would be here on the 26th instant, and asked that the case be adjourned for another week.

Mr. Dixon, on behalf of the plaintiffs, said he could not consent to another adjournment. When the last adjournment was granted his Honour said he would not grant any more adjournments.

Mr. Thomson said defendant was on the ship's articles.

His Honour—But he was on the other ship's articles. Why didn't they take him before the Harbour Master and have him committed to gaol?

Mr. Thomson—He had signed off at Singapore.

His Honour—Oh he had signed off. I'll adjourn it. This is the last adjournment. I really put it to you, Mr. Thomson, can't you come to some settlement. I can't see what defence you have.

Mr. Thomson—The defendant wishes to give the reasons why he left the plaintiff's employ.

His Honour—I don't want to hear his reasons. He wilfully broke his agreement. He admits it.

Mr. Thomson—He wishes to explain to the court.

His Honour—I am afraid that he will make it worse for himself.

Mr. Thomson—I don't think so.

His Honour—All right then, next Friday.

Monday, June 17th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION

[BEFORE THE FULL COURT].

DAVID SASSOON AND CO. v. YUE WING FIRM.

An appeal was heard by the Full Court, the Yue Wing firm, of 45, Jervois Street being the appellants, and Messrs. David Sassoon and Co. of 8, Des Voeux Road, the respondents. The appeal was against an order made by the Chief Justice in Chambers, in favour of the plaintiffs in the original action.

Sir Henry Berkeley, instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, appeared for the appellants, the respondents being represented by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. D. V. Steaven son (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

The claim in the original action was for \$40, being balance due from defendants to plaintiffs for goods sold and delivered according to the usual terms and conditions. The plaintiffs also claimed the sum of \$2,065, being the difference between the price of goods sold by the plaintiffs to the defendants under three contracts entered into by the defendants dated May 2nd, 1905, March 22nd, 1906, and April 3rd, 1906 respectively according to particulars supplied in the contracts (and which contracts the defendants filed to perform), and the amount realised by the sale of the goods by public auction on January 29th, 1907, for the sum of \$426 and auctioneers' charges and expenses in connection with the sale.

The appellants contended that respondents were not entitled to an order as it was only a debt, or liquidated claim under section 19 of the Civil Procedure Code.

The respondents held that the claim was an ordinary one for debt and damages for breach of contract.

Sir Henry Berkeley—This is an appeal from an order made in chambers without the advantage of counsel having been heard on the point.

The Puisse Judge—Whose fault was that?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Nobody's fault. The order was made under what in England is known as Order 14, the equivalent of that order here being section 23 of the code, the section under

which the order is made. It is made in pursuance of and in accordance with section 19 of the code. The corresponding order of the rule which appears in the margin to section 19 is Order 3, rule 6. Your Lordships will observe that section 19 starts with these words, "Where the plaintiff seeks only to recover." If he seeks to recover anything other than a debt or liquidated demand he cannot endorse his writ specially, even though he is also seeking to recover a debt and liquidated demand. In other words, a plaintiff cannot specially endorse a writ both for a liquidated and an unliquidated demand. If he does so the endorsement is bad and any judgment is entitled to be set aside.

Dealing with the claim, Counsel contended that a writ could not be specially endorsed for damages alone, or for damages coupled with a debt. Regarding that portion of the claim for \$2,065, the measure of damages there would have to be determined by the market value of the goods at the time the contract was broken. Inquiry would be made as to what was the value of the goods at the time the defendants refused to take delivery, when the plaintiffs sold them and claimed between the contract price and the price realised. With reference to the third item in the claim, \$126 for auctioneers' charges and expenses, that was not a debt nor a liquidated demand. It was clearly a question of damages. Summary judgment would not be delivered in chambers.

Mr. Slade submitted it was recognised perfectly plainly that any liquidated demand, not liquidated damages, could be recovered on a specially endorsed writ. "Liquidated" meant a fixed and ascertained amount, so where there was a fixed and ascertained amount demanded in the writ, arising on a contract expressed or implied, it could be recovered by summary judgment.

The Puisse Judge—You mean liquidated at the date of the writ?

Mr. Slade—Ascertained. Proceeding, he said, respondent took the necessary steps to ascertain his damages. He sold the goods by public auction, the ascertained damages after the sale being the difference between the net proceeds of the sale and the price of the goods. If appellants had filed an affidavit that the sale was not of a proper kind, there would be a defence as to the quantum of the action, and the case would have to go to trial.

The Chief Justice—I very often have to give leave to a defendant as to the amount only.

Mr. Slade—It frequently has to be done, and could have been done by the defendants in this case. And unless they do that, when the plaintiff has taken the proper course regarding his demand against them, he can recover on a specially endorsed writ.

The decision was reserved.

Monday, 18th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

NO INDICTMENT.

The Attorney-General announced that no indictment had been filed in the case in which Wu Tsz-sin and two other natives were charged with embezzlement.

ALLEGED MURDER.

Fujioka Kichi, Yastaro Koniya, Umakichi Yamaguchi and Nasajiro Iseki were indicted on the charge of murdering a countryman named Araki Taizo at a Japanese Hotel in Connaught Road Central, on April 4th.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, the accused being defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. H. K. Holmes.

Prisoners pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called.—J. H. W. Armstrong (foreman), E. Bernheim, H. G. Simms, J. Dickie, J. D. Pulley, S. Weinberg and H. A. Siebs.

The Attorney-General stated that deceased and accused were apparently known to each other for some little time prior to the fatal quarrel. On April 3rd the deceased took three Japanese girls to the boarding house in Connaught Road Central known as the Yamamoto Kwan. This was a Japanese boarding house,

and it appeared that when single girls were brought here from Japan they were taken there. On the night of the 3rd April when deceased entered the boarding house he was followed by the accused. The latter entered a room on the second floor and started drinking beer. Later deceased descended from the third floor, entered the room in which they were, sat down, and accused offered him a drink, but he did not accept. Suddenly a beer bottle was thrown on the ground, and in a moment the four men had arisen and set upon the deceased. Overpowered by numbers the deceased was roughly handled, and in addition to a fractured skull received several other injuries, the nature of which went to show that sharp instruments had been used in inflicting them. There were present when the assault occurred the keeper of the boarding house, his wife and a servant. After the attack deceased made his way up to another floor in a dying condition, and a slight blood trail marked his steps. He appeared to have gone with considerable celerity, because the accused who went up after him could not find him. Deceased succeeded in getting into the verandah of the house next door where a Chinese resident, hearing a fall and on going to the verandah, found him. The defendants then went to the house where the deceased lived at Praya East, asked his concubine where he was, and stated that they meant to kill him. The four accused were arrested at various times and places after the affair had been reported to the police.

Mr. Slade—I submit on the Attorney-General's opening that he has not shown anything more than a case of manslaughter.

His Lordship—I didn't catch the whole of his speech owing to the noise made by the electric fans.

Mr. Slade—On my learned friend's opening statement I don't see that he can bring a charge of murder.

The Attorney-General—I propose to touch on the law at a later stage.

His Lordship—In the case for the Crown, what is death said to result from?

The Attorney-General—A stab wound through the heart.

His Lordship—Did the accused all have knives?

The Attorney-General—They had ample time to get rid of that evidence before the police arrived.

His Lordship—I don't think I can say there is no case laid before the jury which might not possibly be murder.

Evidence was then called, and the case adjourned.

Thursday, June 20th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT, (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED MURDER.

The hearing of the charge of murder preferred against Fujioka Kichi, Yastaro Koniya, Umakichi Yamaguchi and Nasajiro Iseki was continued.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, the accused being defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. H. K. Holmes.

Before the trial continued his Lordship wished to say a word about the proper form of caution to be administered to a prisoner when exhibits were put in. He thought the exhibits should be put before the person charged, that he should be told the charge and that the exhibits had been secured by the police.

The Attorney-General—In this case your Lordship intimated that I should not ask to put the prisoners' statements in. I think you also said you were satisfied regarding Inspector Hanson's statement.

His Lordship—Yes, but I do want to impress upon the Government the absolute necessity of having the very best interpreters that can possibly be had.

The Attorney-General—Your Lordship's instructions have been noted. I understand from the police the rule is that a man should be charged as quickly as possible after his arrest.

In this instance the police scoured the country and could find only the one man in time.

His Lordship—What I am hoping is that a Japanese interpreter should be regularly attached to the court.

The Attorney-General—There was a Japanese regularly attached, but he was charged with being one of the accessories to this crime, hence the trouble.

Mr. Slade, in opening the defence, remarked that from the evidence as a whole it seemed to him that the jury must come to the conclusion that the deceased met his death on April 4th by reason of receiving a wound from a pointed weapon about five-eighths of an inch broad, which penetrated through his lung into his heart. The evidence of the police would also make it appear probable that the wound was inflicted on the second floor of the Japanese boarding house in Connaught Road Central. The serious questions the jury had to decide were firstly, who, if anybody, inflicted that deadly wound, and secondly, were the circumstances under which that wound was inflicted such as would justify a verdict of murder. The first question they had to consider was whether it was satisfactorily established that the four accused were at the boarding house on that night. Because, if there was any reasonable doubt that these men were not there, then the jury must necessarily bring in a verdict of not guilty. In considering that question they would have to come to a determination as to whether the evidence given on behalf of the Crown was sufficiently trustworthy to enable them to rely upon it. The Attorney-General suggested that the witnesses he called were inclined to conceal the truth, a most extraordinary thing to say about his own witnesses when there was no evidence to show that these witnesses were afraid of the accused. Mr. Slade then dwelt on the material difference in the stories of some of the witnesses and stated that there could be no question of murder as there was no malice aforethought proved, or reason for it suggested.

The jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter against the accused, and His Lordship sentenced each man to ten years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Friday, June 21st.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED ROBBERY.

Tin Fong and six other Chinese were arraigned on the charge of robbery at Shek-lung in the New Territory.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, the accused being undefended.

The following jurors were empanelled:—J. Benjamin (foreman), A. Sheffield, F. F. Eca da Silva, I. H. Amerman, A. Sinclair, A. P. Samy, and H. O. Siebler.

The Attorney-General stated that the facts in the case were very simple. The prosecutrix was a Chinese woman named Kue Mi, who lived at Shek-lung in the New Territory. She had been there for about a year, having returned from America where, apparently she had been for the last twenty years. Like most of her countrymen who return from that land of promise, she appeared to be fairly well provided with this world's goods. On the morning of May 16th the door of her house was broken open and ten men entered, two of whom were armed with knives. The two men bearing knives caught hold of the prosecutrix and secured her, while the rest of the men rifled the premises, took everything of value they could find, and made off. In due course the woman went to the Shatin Police Station and reported the matter to the Sergeant in charge. On the evening of May 19th Sergeant Devency arrested five of the accused, who were then in possession of part of the stolen property. The sixth man was arrested in Temple street, and the seventh in You Wo Lane. The defendants were paraded in the usual way with other Chinese at the

Central Police Station, and were picked out from among the other men by the prosecutrix.

Kue Mi, declared, said she recognised the defendants, who had robbed her of clothing, gold rings, bangles, and \$70 in twenty cent pieces. Altogether she valued the goods stolen from her at between 600 and \$700.

Witness was then questioned regarding the separate articles of clothing.

Are these your trousers?—Yes, I constantly wear these, but they took them away and I haven't got them to wear.

And this blanket?—This blanket was given to me as a present by a foreigner in America.

Is this jacket yours?—Yes, it was given to me to wear in my old age.

And what about the watch?—Oh I had that to do my work by in America.

The Attorney-General—The prosecutrix identified the pair of trousers worn by the seventh defendant as her's, but I am afraid I cannot put them in as an exhibit, because the police have nothing else for him to wear.

After hearing further evidence the jury brought in a verdict of guilty against all but the sixth defendant. The first second and the seventh defendants were each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour. The third, fourth and fifth defendants were sentenced to five years' hard labour, and the sixth defendant was discharged.

When the latter defendant was told he was discharged, the jury having found him not guilty, he replied:—"I'm guilty with the rest." Then he was ordered to go.

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL.

The Dragon Boat festival was celebrated on June 15th with some of the old time picturesque at Aberdeen, and as usual attracted a large number of visitors, which included His Excellency the Acting Governor, Mrs. May, and a large party. Three boats all belonging to the neighbourhood of Aberdeen participated in the day's proceedings and with Inspector Dymond directing the arrangements the events were perhaps more orderly than they would have been without European supervision.

There were four races, and in all the excitement was of the keenest. Victory did not always rest with the keeneast boat, and at the close it would probably be found that honours were fairly even, an exception perhaps being made in favour of the lucky crew which secured the special prize presented by His Excellency. The winners in this instance were also rewarded with the hearty plaudits of the many onlookers, launches from Hongkong being particularly numerous. As the long boats with their upright crews were paddled through the water, and the gongs were beaten, the spectators realised the strangeness and novelty of the sight, but as the gongs were beaten quicker and the paddlers increased their exertions they further marvelled at the speed which the rather frail crafts attained. Fortunately nothing occurred to mar the pleasantness of the spectacle, and while the visitors returned homewards the Chinese prepared for further revelry. Most of the Chinese theatres remained open all through Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Each boat is nearly a hundred feet long, and is propelled by sixty paddles, the men sitting in pairs. Other men standing urge the paddles by waving fans and yelling, while a man standing amidships beats a gong to time them. The time of one race, as counted by Professor Dyer Ball, was about 84 to the minute, but the men sometimes manage more than that. It may be pointed out, however, that the blades are lightly dipped, and the stroke is a short one. The pace, fast as it seems, is not up to that of a well rowed eight oar racer. The dragon's head and tail affixed to the respective ends of the boat were all that was left, with the tom-tom of course, to remind spectators that it was a barbaric spectacle. The old array of flags was missing, and the sight of European policemen acting as starters, and the big crowd of steam launches, robbed it of much of its old impressiveness. The Dragon boat, in treaty ports and foreign settlements at least, is going the way of the Malay prahu, the South Sea war canoe, or the Burman paddle races.

SEPTUAGENARIAN PARSEE TRAVELLER.

INTERESTING VISITOR TO HONGKONG.

The fullness of years that bring grey hairs and wisdom, plus a broad intelligence and unflinching amiability make a woman a very queen sometimes, though her dominion be but the hearts of friends. Such a queen held court on June 17th at the King Edward Hotel, in the person of Mrs. Dossibai Cawasjee Jussawalla.

Accompanied by her two sons, this venerable lady, aged 73 years, is making her third visit to Europe, this time via China, Japan, and America. At Hongkong she has been paid respectful hospitality by leading citizens. Parsee and other. To her on that afternoon, as on other days, went numerous callers, including foreign ladies bearing tribute of flowers, and a representative of the *Daily Press* was also permitted to pay his respects. References to her career and personality in the *Times of India* made her an object of considerable interest. Fifty years ago she was the pioneer of English education for Parsee ladies, and suffered for a long time the displeasure and censure of the orthodox Zoroastrians, but now they praise instead of blame. Parsee ladies are still good Zoroastrians and their foreign accomplishments are no longer considered a drawback.

Mrs. Dossibai was in England a short time ago, and smiled when a tentative reference to the "Suffragettes" was made. "I am no politician," she declared, and would not pass any opinion as to the political status of women either in India or England. That they should all be allowed to enjoy a good education was the most she claimed for her sex, and, of course, freedom to travel.

"Travelling is good for both mind and body," she said, and offered herself as a living example. At 73 years of age, with flashing eyes, a healthy appetite, and brave spirit, she pursues a round the world trip with the fearlessness of a young man. With Hongkong she is not particularly pleased, though it has pretty scenery and very kind people. But it is so hot; yes, much hotter than India.

Having come so recently from India, perhaps she could pass an opinion as to the true state of affairs there, apropos the reports of disaffection? No. She believed wicked men were going about trying to breed trouble, but if the papers told us the great mass of Indian people were not loyal to the Emperor and Empress, they told that which was not true. She herself was taking for exhibition at Tokyo, Dublin, and America, a cap embroidered with pearls and gold thread by her own hands, without the aid of spectacles which later on she hoped the Queen might be gracious enough to accept from her. Fine work? It was kind of the visitor to admire it so much. Over that medallion showing the face of the late Queen Victoria, there was still to go a big diamond.

England was a dear, beautiful place. She loved it, and was glad to go there once more. Long ago, nearly sixty years ago, she made many friends there and wrote many letters. She used to attend parties at Government House, and remembered the great Lord Lytton and his lady very well. They were very great friends. Queen Victoria sent her a special invitation to attend the 1887 Jubilee. In 1878 she toured all over Europe, interviewed the Pope, and went up in a balloon at the first Paris Exhibition. See, here I have a souvenir, in this great gold medal. They said I was brave then; I was young in those days—and the dear old lady almost seemed ready to apologise for not repeating such wonderful performances now. Yes, it was true she was writing her autobiography, and that it would be published before very long. She had many, many things to put in it; but just now she must not neglect the ladies who had so kindly called to bring her flowers. It was good to come and talk with her, and the newspaper gentleman must pay her a visit at her Indian home when she returned.

Her two sons, Messrs. Dadabhai and Jamsheji, are nice fellows, and justifiably proud of such a wonderful mother.

SELLING LIQUOR WITHOUT A LICENCE.

THE UNITED CLUB CASE.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, at the Police Court, on June 17th, the case was concluded in which William David Radburn, Mrs. Marie Rodgers and her husband, Captain H. G. L. Rodgers, R.E., were prosecuted for selling intoxicating liquors at 15, Queen's Road Central, at premises known as the United Club, without a proper permit.

Detective-Sergeants Murison and Earner conducted the case on behalf of the Police, while Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for the second and third defendants.

Mr. Goldring—Your Worship will recollect that I raised the point as to whether a *prima facie* case had been made out against the second and third defendants. I now wish to submit that in view of the evidence of the first defendants the *prima facie* case, such as it was, falls to the ground, and the complicity of the second and third defendants vanishes. It is clear from the first defendant's evidence that the second and third were not concerned with the sale of the liquor.

His Worship—The question is whether they are not guilty of being aiders and abettors. (His Worship quoted the case of Owen Lanfor with regard to this point.)

Mr. Goldring—That is a question of convicting the owner. Who is the owner here under the circumstances?

His Worship—The person who supplied liquor in this case was employed as a barman by the third defendant.

Mr. Goldring—He is not employed by the third defendant.

His Worship—But he says he was employed as barman!

Mr. Goldring—He was employed as barman by the Club.

His Worship—I am not satisfied that it is a Club. The onus is on you to satisfy me that it is.

Mr. Goldring—I submit that the charges against the second and third defendants cannot stand on the evidence at present before your Worship. The explanation of the first defendant goes to show that it was a club.

His Worship—The onus is on you to satisfy me that it is a club. You have not proved that any subscriptions were paid.

Mr. Goldring—That is shown in the books.

His Worship—It is not shown in the books.

Mr. Goldring—It was also proved by Radburn who stated that he refused to serve two men on one occasion. From his evidence, given on oath, your Worship will see that payment was not always recorded.

His Worship—There is nothing in the evidence to satisfy me that a single man put down as a member paid a copper cent as subscription.

Mr. Goldring—Perhaps not directly.

His Worship—With reference to the question of being aiders and abettors, there is the point that the second defendant ordered the liquor and it was sold to the first two witnesses. The second defendant ordered the mineral water, and the second and third ordered the chairs. I think the second defendant is entitled to be acquitted, but the evidence against the third is that he employed the first man as barman, and the barman's duty was to sell drinks. If this is not a lawful club, then in my opinion the third defendant is an aider and abettor.

Mr. Goldring—I hope to prove to your Worship that the third defendant did not admit or suffer the first defendant to sell any intoxicating liquor.

His Worship—I assume the club is not a lawful club.

Mr. Goldring—It has been continually called the United Club.

His Worship—The fact of its being called a club does not constitute it a club. We've got a book recording the payment of entrance.

His Worship—You've got to prove to me that those people paid their entrance fees.

Lance Corporal Patten, R.E., sworn, said he was the secretary of the United Club, which Club was started on May 15th. Civilian, military or naval men could become members.

The entrance fee was \$1 for the Service and \$2 for civilians, while the subscription was fifty cents for the Service and \$1 for civilians. The names of the people in the membership book had paid their entrance fee and subscription, and had been elected members. The same book contained the minutes of the first meeting held on May 15th. These were in the handwriting of witness. Any profit accruing from the sale of liquor was to go to the benefit of members. The premises were leased from the second defendant, and the amount to be paid was approximately \$120 a month. That was to cover steward's expenses. Witness asked Mrs. Rodgers to order the liquor for the club, as he had not time to order it himself. He gave her the money to pay for it. The third defendant put the takings in the cash box each night, handing witness a chit for the amount taken, together with the key of the box.

His Worship—How did the election of members take place?—On the first night by the committee. Afterwards by ballot.

Was it the arrangement that election should be by ballot?—After the month end.

Sergeant Earner pointed out that Lance-Sergeant Paris's name has been entered in the membership book, but that he had not paid his subscription.

Witness said all the members had not paid up.

Sergeant Earner—Are any chits allowed to be signed?—No.

His Worship—How about visitors?—Visitors are not allowed to visit the club unless accompanied by a member.

What's your explanation about Radburn selling liquor to new members? It's against the orders of the club. I have known him to refuse before.

His Worship (to Sergeant Earner)—You are not able to point out any other man who has not paid his subscription?

Sergeant Earner—No, your Worship.

Mr. Goldring—And the man who did not pay is a policeman!

A detective (whispering)—A policeman is human the same as other men.

His Worship convicted the first defendant, and ordered him to pay a fine of \$15, the alternative being one month's imprisonment. The second and third defendants were discharged and the liquor is not to be forfeited. Half the fine, if paid, is to go to the first two witnesses.

A CHINESE EMIGRANT TO VANCOUVER.

EUROPEAN CHARGED WITH AIDING AND ABETTING.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, at the Police Court, on the 13th June, Thomas Chester Hopkins, alias Thomas Chater Hooper, was charged with unlawfully aiding and abetting one, Fam Ying, to obtain a passage on board the s.s. *Empress of China* without the consent of the owner, charterer, agent, master, or the person in charge, on April 10th.

Mr. G. C. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) prosecuted on behalf of the Canadian-Pacific Railway Co., and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) represented the defendant.

Mr. Goldring stated that he was instructed to withdraw his plea of not guilty, and plead guilty. His client was the bookkeeper in the Savoy, Ltd., and at some stage of his existence became acquainted with one, Gardiner, master-at-arms on the *Empress of China*. In the course of this connection a certain amount of temptation was held out to him, and it was explained that something could be done in the way of getting Chinese into Canada. How far his client was interested in this it was difficult to say, but Mr. Goldring did not think he interested himself very much although he got mixed up with the man Gardiner, who had since absconded. The speaker asked his Worship to deal leniently with the defendant, who got a salary of only \$150 per month. He submitted that a fine would meet the case, and asked his Worship to remember that the defendant had spent a week in jail, that the chief offender had absconded, and that the defendant was simply drafted in.

His Worship—I think I had better first hear the facts from Mr. Master. I will hear you further afterwards.

Mr. Master—It appears that a certain shopkeeper was approached by Gardiner, who asked him if he had anybody he wanted to go to Vancouver, explaining that he had a way of getting them in—that meant, without paying the poll tax.

His Worship—What is the amount of the poll tax?

Mr. Master—\$500 gold. When smuggled people are found on board by the Customs Officials it means a great deal of trouble to the steamers, and the Company may be fined. In some cases they have to pay the head tax and a penalty in addition. In this case there has been a considerable amount of correspondence and trouble about this particular Chinaman.

His Worship—With reference to Australia, where there is total exclusion, the ship is fined a large amount. I want to know, with reference to this case, whether any fine was imposed on the Company or ship.

Mr. Master—Mr. Craddock informs me that the ship is liable to pay in case of a smuggled passenger \$500 gold, the poll tax, and a fine of \$500 gold. In this particular case the man was brought back, no fine was imposed. I think the Company were able to satisfy the officials that it was not their fault. The stowaway was hidden by the master-at-arms in his own cabin in a very clever hiding place. So far as Mr. Craddock knows, the Company has not paid anything, but whether they will have to or not he cannot at the moment say. Proceeding, Mr. Master said that with reference to the facts of the case he should have proved that Hopkins was the go-between between the shopkeeper and Gardiner, and that he actually accompanied the stowaway to the side of the ship when he went on board. There was no question about his being mixed up in the case, likewise Gardiner, who bolted as soon as the man was found. With reference to the punishment, he was instructed to leave the matter in his Worship's hand. They could not appear before the Court and say—"Please let this man off", but on the other hand they did not appear in any vindictive way. The defendant was prosecuted as aider and abettor, and the speaker ventured to suggest that he was worse than the Chinese stowaway.

Mr. Goldring pointed out to his Worship that the shopkeeper who procured the man was more complicated than his client. Assuming everything to be as bad as it could be against the defendant, he was nothing but the go-between. The worst person in this business was Gardiner.

His Worship—There is no question about that.

Mr. Goldring—I don't think it can be proved that the defendant was going to get any money out of this transaction.

Mr. Master—I'll admit he has not received any, but he was to after the man got in.

Mr. Goldring asked his Worship to take into consideration the fact that the defendant had not received any money. He pleaded for a fine, stating that imprisonment for a man of the defendant's age was a very serious thing.

His Worship ordered the defendant to pay a fine of \$500, the alternative being three months' imprisonment.

THE STOWAWAY.

Fam Ying was then charged with stowing away, and pleaded guilty.

Mr. Master said the defendant was the friend or relative of a certain shopkeeper and went on board the *Empress of China* as a stowaway. He was concealed by Master-at-Arms Gardiner in his cabin. During the voyage he mixed with other Chinese passengers and fed with them but before the steamer reached Vancouver he was again secreted in the cabin of the master-at-arms, his hiding place being a large chest. In this he remained for three days without food, so he had a fairly rough time of it. When found by one of the Customs officials he was detained, and an inquiry held, after which he was brought back to China.

His Worship—I have tried a large number of stowaway cases, and feel sorry for these people, as those assisting them actually get money from them.

Mr. Master—Nothing was paid in this case. The money was to be paid when the man got into the country.

His Worship—Do you know whether this man paid anything?

Mr. Master—I believe not. \$450 was to be paid on his getting into the country, of which Gardiner was to be paid \$100 gold; but as the man did not get in the money was not paid.

His Worship—Most of these stowaways are really very ignorant men.

Mr. Master—Quite so, but were a bait not held out there would be no stowaways.

His Worship fined the defendant \$100, in default six weeks' imprisonment.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the Victoria Recreation Club was held at the new Club house on June 19th. Mr. A. Rodger presided and there were also present Messrs. F. Lammert (Secretary), A. A. Alves, A. E. Alves, J. L. S. Alves, J. A. S. Alves, N. H. Alves, C. M. S. Alves, W. Armstrong, A. E. Asger, M. E. Asger, H. M. Bain, J. W. Bains, J. F. A. Barros, A. V. Barros, T. Blair, A. C. Botelho, L. Le Breton, H. B. Bridger, A. H. Carroll, D. E. Carvalho, L. d'Almada e Castro, B. M. Castro, J. Cruickshank, B. M. C. da Cunha, F. E. Ellis, J. E. Ellis, A. Carmichael, E. J. de Figueiredo, H. M. F. de Figueiredo, M. A. Figueiredo, J. M. Fonseca, J. Forbes, C. E. Goggin, T. C. Gray, C. E. A. Harce, W. G. Harrop, E. M. Hazeland, E. Humphreys, F. J. V. Jorge, S. Kingsbury, A. Kemp, H. W. B. Kennett, I. Kuhn, H. A. Lammert, L. E. Lammert, J. J. Leiria, F. P. Lenfestey, W. Logan, A. A. Lopes, J. M. Lopes, P. Loureiro, F. A. Mackintosh, R. Matthaey, D. McCrae, M. McIver, E. J. Mengeno, L. A. Musso, A. M. Neves, J. W. Osborne, R. W. Roza Pereira, J. M. Roza Pereira, H. W. Pettey, R. Pestonji, F. L. Pratt, C. J. Poole, F. Rapp, E. M. Raymond, P. M. Remedios, A. J. V. Ribeiro, J. Rodger, L. G. Rodrigues, J. Rutherford, J. H. Ruttonjee, A. Roza, H. C. Sayer, J. H. Seth, E. Shaw, F. F. Eca da Silva, A. F. B. Silva Netto, A. M. L. Soares, V. Sorby, M. A. A. Souza, M. A. R. Souza, F. K. Tata, H. E. Victor and R. C. Witchell.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, The printed report and statement of accounts which were circulated several days ago, I will with your permission treat as read. The year under review which promised so well in the forepart, and I am sure, had the arrangements sketched out by your respective Committees been carried out as they then contemplated, would have resulted successfully, so far as good swimming fetes, water-polo, scratch rowing-races, and the annual regatta were concerned. I regret to say only a few aquatic entertainments were given, some at night-time, and others in the afternoon, all of them providing good sport to the competitors and spectators alike. They were well patronized by members and their friends; and judging from the interest taken, were highly appreciated by all present. I wish to add here that a good deal of money was spent in putting in the swimming enclosure and surroundings in good shape for these entertainments; but unfortunately for us, after doing so, the disastrous typhoon of September the 18th not only wrecked our swimming enclosure, but also Club-house, boat-shed, and Gymnasium; and our contemplated arrangements had all to be abandoned. The damage to the boats was considerable, and the estimated approximate monetary loss arrived at by the Sub-Committee, after going into the matter was \$3,200. The debit balance of \$1,368.31, less \$241.56, carried forward from the previous year, as shown in the general working account is also entirely attributable to the destruction and inconvenience caused by the typhoon and should, I think, be considered as extraordinary expenditure. The respective Sub-Committees, in their reports, have gone so very fully into all matters pertaining to the various departments they represent, and the suggestions put forward by them, I am sure, will be carefully considered by the incoming Committees, that I think it is unnecessary for me to enlarge on these reports,

as I should only be repeating what has already been made known to you. Nevertheless, I am glad to say that notwithstanding the losses sustained by the Typhoon, we are in a fairly good financial position (applause). The membership is practically the same as last year; whilst I may inform you that no less than twenty new members have been enrolled since we moved to this side. I am sure it is a great pleasure to all members of this Club, notwithstanding the fact that ten teams entered and competed in the Water-Polo Shield competition, that our "A" team came out an easy first, and the "B" team a good second (applause). The annual athletic sports were held as usual. Fairly large fields and keen competition, with good handicapping, in a great measure, were responsible for the keen interest taken by both competitors and spectators. The different events were well contested. The arrangements and results on the whole proved very satisfactory. The "Go as you please" race inaugurated by us, brought together a good number of competitors, and some interest was taken in it by members of this Club. One of our representatives came in second. I now desire on your behalf and my own, to thank our energetic Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, the Editor of the Monthly Magazine, the members of the various Committees, and those gentlemen who assisted us in acting as officials, for their respective valuable services willingly rendered in different capacities and occasions, thus helping to promote the best interests of this Club (applause). I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves on being once more on this side of the harbour. I can assure you your Committee lost no time in moving here, after receiving the necessary permission to take over the site. At present, as you all know, the premises and arrangements on this new site are only of a temporary nature, and I trust members will show their good sense by treating any little inconvenience they may experience, in a generous spirit until things are in really proper order, which I regret to say, will take some time. The new permanent buildings should be nearing completion by the end of this year, and approximately will cost \$23,000. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, should any further information be desired, I shall be pleased to give it to the best of my ability.

Mr. SILVA NETTO—The balance in hand is \$25,935.59. What does that balance represent? We have had it in for the last few years.

The SECRETARY—You want to know why it is the same as last year? There is a debit balance on account of the typhoon, but most of it comes under fixed deposit at the bank. Then there is the wages of the steward and boys going on. We cannot throw everybody out of the Club.

Mr. SILVA NETTO—Then the bar account shows no stock brought forward.

The SECRETARY—If you look again you will see that the bar account and the athletic account are merged into the working account.

Mr. SILVA NETTO—The accounts are not comprehensive.

The SECRETARY—What do you suggest?

Mr. SILVA NETTO—A more comprehensive and better system. It is manifest that the Club's position was embarrassed by the typhoon, but these accounts don't show it beyond the boat house sub-committee's report.

No further questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented. He thought Mr. Silva Netto was quite right in saying that the accounts should be kept a little better, but they would let the old system die in the old Kowloon shed. He thought the matter could be left in the hands of the incoming committee.

Mr. SILVA NETTO seconded the motion, to which members agreed.

Mr. GRAY proposed the re-election of Mr. A. Rodger as chairman. His comprehensive remarks about the troublous times through which the Club had passed during the past year left little for him to say. Mr. Rodger had the interests of the Club at heart, and the speaker did not think they could have a better chairman.

Mr. HAZELAND seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. BAINS—Before the election of the secretary takes place there is a matter which I would

like to bring before the notice of members, regarding the expenses incurred by the secretary on behalf of the Club, which I believe are not refunded to him. Members will readily understand that the secretary of as large a Club as the V. R. C. must necessarily be out of pocket considerably by the end of the year and it is to remedy this that I direct attention to it. I understand that other clubs, with even less members than the V. R. C., either pay their secretary a stated sum or make a grant to cover his expenses. In the past, I am informed, it was the custom for the secretaries to make a charge upon the Club for this purpose, but this has not been done by our present secretary last year at any rate. Under the circumstances therefore, I beg to propose that this meeting vote a sum of \$250 to the secretary as an honorarium.

Mr. LOGAN seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. M. A. SOUZA proposed the re-election of Mr. Frank Lammert as honorary secretary.

Mr. J. A. S. ALVES seconded the motion which was carried nem. con.

Mr. R. HENDERSON was elected honorary treasurer on the motion of Mr. PEARSON, seconded by Mr. L. A. LAMMERT.

The following committees were then elected by ballot:—

General Committee: Messrs. T. C. Gray, H. A. Lammert, E. M. Hazeland, M. McIver, T. Meek, W. Logan, J. Rodger, R. W. Pearson and J. W. Bains.

Ballotting Committee: Messrs. A. P. Nobbs, L. Lammert, J. Alves, A. A. Alves, F. M. Rosa Pereira, A. E. Alves, W. Goggin, C. E. Hance, M. A. Figueiredo and J. Cruickshank.

This was all the business, and the meeting ended with three cheers for the Chairman.

WANTED IN HONGKONG.

A JAPANESE INTERPRETER.

The Japanese murder trial was continued at the Supreme Court on June 19th. The last witness for the Crown, the Japanese interpreter who took the statements of the accused at the Central Police Station, was called to give evidence regarding these statements but showed such a poor command of the English language under examination and cross-examination that his Lordship remarked a more competent man should have been procured, especially in a case of life and death.

The Attorney-General—I understand it was three days before the Police could get a man at all.

His Lordship—They ought to wait thirty days unless they could get a competent man.

The Attorney-General—Is it your Lordship's ruling that these statements are not admissible?

His Lordship—I am throwing out a suggestion that these statements are not legal.

The Attorney-General—Perhaps your Lordship will call Mr. Hanson to explain the matter.

His Lordship—Yes, certainly. But you might let the case go to the jury on its merits.

Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson was then called and stated that the interpreter who translated the statements at the Police Station seemed to be slow and inexperienced. The speaker did his best to comply with the regulations, but found it necessary to get the interpreter to translate the statements sentence by sentence so that he might inquire about anything he did not understand. Once or twice he had to inquire regarding the meaning of certain sentences translated.

His Lordship—The next time a Japanese case comes for trial the Japanese Consul must be applied to. It is impossible to try a case of importance under these circumstances.

Mr. SHADE—We have all known Mr. Hanson for very many years, and I am perfectly certain he would not do the slightest thing unfair to any prisoner with whom he had to deal.

His Lordship—I am very pleased to know that, but I want to say this with regard to other trials, that it is absolutely essential to get the best of interpreters.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

GOVERNMENT CONSENT TO INCREASE OF CAPITAL.

The recent resolutions confirmed by shareholders of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at an extraordinary meeting for the increase of the Bank's capital from ten to fifteen million dollars, have been approved by Government, and in the current *Gazette* the consent of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been proclaimed. The proclamation reads as follows:—

[L. S.] FRANCIS HENRY MAY,

Officer Administering the Government.

By His Excellency Francis Henry May, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Officer Administering the Government and Commander in Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies and Vice-Admiral of the same.

Whereas by section 2 of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance 1907, it was provided among other things that it should be lawful for the Company notwithstanding anything contained in section 22 of the Principal Ordinance (being the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance 1866), or in the Deed of Settlement therein mentioned from time to time to extend or increase its capital for the time being by the creation and sale of new shares so as the same was made with the consent of a general (extraordinary) meeting of the shareholders of the Company to be specially called for that purpose and with the consent previously obtained of the Governor and under such conditions and provisions as he might think fit, such consent being evidenced by a notification or proclamation to that effect under the hand of the Governor and published in the *Gazette*, and so as the total amount of the capital of the company should not exceed the sum of twenty millions of dollars. Provided that whenever and so often as any further capital was raised then a notification or proclamation to that effect under the hand of the Governor should be published in the *Gazette* and the present capital of ten millions of dollars together with such further capital should thenceforth be taken to be the fixed capital of the company, but with power nevertheless further to increase such capital from time to time as was therein provided.

And whereas it having been duly intimated to the Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong and its Dependencies that the desire of the shareholders of the said company was further to increase the capital of the said company to the total amount of fifteen millions of dollars by the creation and sale of new shares subject to the provisions of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance 1907, and to have the previous consent of the Officer Administering the Government thereto, the said Officer Administering the Government on the 15th day of June, 1907, in writing did signify his consent to the proposed creation of additional capital of the said Company subject to the provisions of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance 1907 to the extent of five millions of dollars.

And whereas it having been represented to me that pursuant to the said consent a further capital of five millions of dollars divided into shares of \$125 each has been created.

Now therefore I in pursuance of section 2 of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance 1907 do hereby proclaim that the said further capital of five millions of dollars has been created and that the said sum of five millions of dollars together with the said sum of ten millions of dollars making in all a total of fifteen millions of dollars shall henceforth be taken to be the fixed capital of the said Company.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Colony, at Victoria, Hongkong, this 20th day of June, 1907.—By Command,

A. M. THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

God Save the King.

CONSENT.

[L. S.] FRANCIS HENRY MAY,

Officer Administering the Government.

To the Court of Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

I, Francis Henry May, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Officer Administering the Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies and Vice-Admiral of the same, do hereby signify my consent to the proposed increase of the capital of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from ten millions of dollars to fifteen millions of dollars subject to the provisions of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance 1907.

Dated this 15th day of June, 1907.

ARMED ROBBERS AT SHANGHAI.

For a man who loves exciting adventures, the Shanghai policeman's lot is a happy one, as the following narrative from the *N.O. Daily News* of June 11th shows. Three or four days ago the police received information that a gang of eighteen men had arrived in the Settlement from Nanking with the intention of looting a pawn-shop in Woohow Road, Hongkey. So good was their information that they were aware at what time the robbery was to take place, but at first there was some doubt as to the locality in which the gang had taken up their quarters. It was not until Sunday morning that the native detectives discovered that a portion of the gang was staying at 698 Park Road. All Saturday night portions of the Settlement were patrolled by forces of armed police, but for some reason or other the raid did not take place. At 10 a.m. on Sunday Inspector Mackintosh, Det. Insp. Armstrong, Det. Sergt. Irown, and a party of armed Sikh and foreign police mustered for a raid on the Park Road premises. They had already started when a native detective and a Chinese soldier arrived at the house, and the alarm was given. The robbers made a desperate resistance and fired several shots, wounding both the detective and the soldier. Attracted by the sound of the firing a detachment of Sikh police which was on its way back to the Sinze Station surrounded and entered the premises, and when Inspector Mackintosh's force arrived on the scene they had captured four men. The premises were searched and three loaded revolvers were discovered, two of which had been fired, as empty chambers testified. The native detective and the soldier were both hit; one had two fingers shot off and the other was wounded in the fleshy part of the arm.

The capture of these men provided a clue to the whereabouts of the rest of the gang, and the police spent the greater part of Sunday in searching for them throughout the Settlement. In the evening they succeeded in arresting four more men in Sinze Road, who were identified by those already in custody as part of the band. No fire-arms were found on the persons of these men, but they had in their possession a peculiar pattern of bag which is said to have been served out by the chief of the band. The men all came from Nanking, and it is alleged that their leader is wanted on a charge of murdering two officials who endeavoured to effect his arrest in Anhui province in February.

The eight prisoners were brought up at the Mixed Court yesterday morning before Mr. Tao and Mr. Barton, and after the evidence against them had been taken six of them were sent into the City while the other two were detained to enable the police to make further inquiries. The charges against them read: Being members of a gang of well known armed robbers and meeting in the Settlement for the purpose of raiding and looting the Yung Tai pawn-shop in Woohow Road on the 8th instant; also with shooting at, with intent to kill, and wounding a native soldier who attempted to arrest them.

The Court marked on the charge-sheet: "The Court highly commends the conduct of the police officers concerned."

The men are supposed to have arrived in Shanghai in the middle of last week, and it is believed that they first took up their quarters in Tongshan Road. Besides the members of the gang the tenant of the houses in Park Road in which they were arrested was charged with harbouring them, but the Court let him off with a caution. The police succeeded in arresting another—the ninth—prisoner yesterday, so that half of the gang are now believed to be in custody.

CHINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

The Directors' report presented at the ninth annual meeting of the China Mutual Life Insurance Company, Limited, held at Shanghai, on the 30th May, was as follows:—

Your Directors have pleasure in submitting for your consideration their report for the Ninth Year ending March 31st, 1907.

It is with great satisfaction that your Directors are again able to show a very gratifying progress in all respects, in spite of adverse trade and other unfavourable conditions in China and elsewhere during the past year.

New business:—The new applications received for the year amounted to Dollars 10,923,557.56 being an increase over the preceding year of Dollars 725,371.22. Policies were issued for Dollars 9,937,636.88. Applications amounting to Dollars 985,950.67 were postponed or declined.

The total insurance in force as at 31st March, 1907, amounted to Dollars 31,655,517.49 being an increase for the year of Dollars 6,448,409.52 or over 25 per cent.

Income:—The total Income for the year amounted to Dollars 2,339,341.16, a gain over the previous year of Dollars 364,271.16 or over 18 per cent.

Interest:—The income from interest amounted to Dollars 274,163.86 a gain of Dollars 143,692.54, or over 110 per cent.

Assets:—The total assets now amount to Dollars 4,989,042.00 being an increase over last year of Dollars 1,372,440.02, or over 37 per cent.

Reserve:—The total reserve set aside to meet maturing policies now amounts to Dollars 4,296,721.53, being an increase of Dollars 1,217,750.29 or over 39 per cent. Notwithstanding the fact that a basis of valuation giving higher reserve was adopted last year the Directors deemed it expedient to still strengthen the security to policyholders by permanently adopting a valuation on the basis of the latest tables prepared by the English Institute of Actuaries and technically known as the "Om. 5" Table. This table gives a higher valuation of policies in force than any previously used by the Company, though its use necessarily reduces the net surplus that would otherwise have shown a much greater increase.

Surplus:—The surplus of assets over and above all liabilities including paid up capital now amounts to Dollars 526,575.79. The total security to policyholders inclusive of subscribed capital, now amounts to Dollars 5,08,228.82, being an increase of Dollars 1,300,434.42, or over 30 per cent. as set forth in detail in the financial statement, which is certified correct by your Company's Auditor, Mr. A. R. Leake. Mr. Leake has also examined all the Company's securities.

Your Directors beg to announce that since the date of the last annual meeting Mr. John Ford has left Shanghai altogether and has therefore been compelled to resign as chairman to the Board of Directors, and also his seat on the Board. Mr. R. Macgregor has been appointed a Director and Chairman in his stead. Mr. G. Stepharius has also joined the Board of Directors. These appointments are subject to your approval which you will be asked to give at this meeting.

A notable addition to the staff has been made in the appointment of Mr. S. B. Neill, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, Eng., as Assistant Actuary.

In accordance with the deed of settlement Mr. Lee Yung Su retires from the Directorate, but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

J. A. WATTIE, Managing Director.
ARTHUR J. HUGHES, Secretary and Actuary.
G. E. GOODE, M.B.C.S., }
HERMANN BAILEY, } Medical Directors
M.D., B.S., }

FINANCIAL STATEMENT as at 31st March, 1907.

RECEIPTS.		\$	c.
Premium income	2,039,939.93		
Interest	274,163.86		
Income from other sources	5,237.87		
		\$2,339,341.16	

DISBURSEMENTS.		\$	c.
Death claims	433,577.69		
Matured endowments and profits	2,291.56		
Surrendered policies	78,949.24		

Expenses, rent, commission, advertising, printing, etc.	769,113.58
Medical fees	48,845.02
	\$1,329,777.00
Excess income over expenditure	1,009,564.16
	\$2,339,341.16
BALANCE SHEET on 31st March, 1907.	
ASSETS.	
Cash on hand	\$ 53,513.25
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Shanghai and branches	156,081.56
International Banking Corporation and other banks	67,926.52
Mortgages and loans	2,067,989.23
Real estate for Company's building	158,052.91
Debentures, Shunghai Municipal Council and others	847,632.44
Stocks and shares, local companies	420,821.91
Policy loans	252,706.83
Office furniture, Shanghai and branches (less dollars 2,367.50 written off)	24,520.66
Agents' balances	64,658.97
Interest, due and accrued	34,236.19
Deferred premiums (less cost of collection)	175,143.34
Premiums in course of collection (less cost of collection)	665,768.29
	\$4,989,042.00
LIABILITIES.	
Reserves, last year	\$3,078,971.21
Added this year	1,217,750.31
	4,296,721.52
Capital, paid up	68,493.15
All other liabilities	97,251.54
Surplus assets over liabilities	526,575.79
	\$4,989,042.00

EVENING CONTINUATION CLASSES.

Interest in the evening continuation classes—an innovation introduced by Sir Matthew Nathan last year—was heightened on June 19th when the first presentation of prizes and certificates won by students attending these classes took place at Queen's College. The ceremony was attended by a large number of students while Mr. E. Ralphs, the secretary, the Rev. T. W. Pearce and members of the teaching staff, were present.

The Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, who presented the prizes and certificates, addressed the students, remarking that though the classes were discontinued now they would be resumed again in October. The committee thought it was only polite to the students who by their ability and industry had gained prizes to meet that afternoon and congratulate them upon their success, and whilst doing so to remember the founder of the evening classes. The students owed a debt of gratitude to H. E. Sir Matthew Nathan. Education was a subject in which he took the deepest interest and they knew that when His Excellency took an interest in a subject he was not content to stand by and criticise but took more than one's man share in the work. There was another gentleman whose name they should also remember, Mr. W. H. Williams, who had drawn up the prospectus and the syllabus. They were fortunate in having at their disposal the services of a man with the requisite knowledge and experience, and the committee were now in a position to give a useful education in a variety of subjects. That afternoon he would only refer to one and that was English. He hoped that all ambitious Chinese would not rest with the knowledge of English they had acquired at the schools but that they would attend those evening classes for at least two years. No doubt some of them felt that they knew enough already but he hoped they would take the advice of those who were older and knew better. He remembered when His Excellency attended the English examination and heard the conversation between the examiner and a certain student Sir Matthew Nathan turned to him (the speaker) and remarked that he did not see why that student wished to come there. But Mr. Wong Tak Kwong differed from His Excellency and he hoped he would continue to attend those classes for another year. Before distributing the prizes he would like to express his thanks to the members of the teaching staff for their kindness during the past eight months. His connection with the work was only temporary but he was glad to have had the opportunity of working with them. For the information of the public he would mention that 76 students had passed with credit, 50 students passed, and 103 received certificates for regular attendance. In all subjects the majority of the students showed very good attainments.

The Hon. Registrar-General then presented prizes to the following:

German, M. Gomez; Physics, Wong Tak-kwong and Tam Wing-kwong; Book Keeping (Ele.), Elias Abraham; Book Keeping (Adv.), M. S. Capur; Machine Drawing, Wm. Lambert; Chemistry, Wong Tak-kwong; English (Senior), Wong Tak-kwong; English (Junior), M. Juman and Ho In; French (Ele.), Ho Wing; French (Adv.), N. C. Galluzzi; Shorthand (Ele.), Alice L. Lesbirel; Shorthand (Adv.), S. A. B. Bux; Building Construction, Tse Ching-fong, and T. S. Wright; Mathematics (Ele.), Un Kwok-yan; Mathematics (Adv.), Chan Sz-yui; Mechanics, Chan Sz-yui; Special attendance prizes, Cham Chui-uu and Kunigi Yocose.

On the motion of the Rev. Dr. Pearce a vote of thanks was passed to the Hon. Mr. Brewin and the proceedings terminated.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

June 14th.

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES.

The flat of the Public Works Department has gone forth that all the houses in this city—they number over five thousand—must be white-washed within a month! A sense of humour, it will be observed, is sadly lacking in our P. W. D. It is all the more apparent when you note the ruinous state of many of the public buildings, and the public would like to see the Government showing the way more by example than precept. There is, for instance, the ruin used as the public gaol, and also the Agostinho barracks at the top of Rua Central, both of which have been condemned by former Directors of Public Works. The streets on which these buildings are always crowded with people and should they collapse, we may expect to hear of loss of life as well as much damage to private property.

I may at the same time direct the attention of the authorities to the unprotected state of the well in the centre of the square at Barco da Fructa. The stones that formerly covered the mouth of the well have long since been broken, and as the P.W.D. neglected a very obvious duty to the public who frequent the Square, some merciful Chinese have covered the mouth of the well with a big fowls' cage to prevent anyone falling in. This public notice of the matter, I hope, will induce the P.W.D. to give the matter its attention.

THE PUBLIC GARDEN.

It is satisfactory to be able to say a good word about one at least of our Government departments. Certainly the way in which our only Public Garden is kept is highly creditable. I doubt if anywhere in the Far East the traveller will find a Public Garden which excels Macao's San Francisco Garden.

A NEW TAX.

I foreshadowed in my last that in order to provide a fund for the payment of interest on the loan for rebuilding the gaol new taxation would probably be necessary. The Leal Senado must be hard put to it when they begin by imposing a tax of 50 cents a month on each bicycle kept by dealers for hire! These dealers already pay to the Fazenda an annual license fee, and the new tax will not add to the coffers more than about two hundred dollars a year. Moreover, the tax will fall mainly on the soldiers and sailors stationed here, for they are the chief patrons of the dealers, and, of course, the latter will put up their prices to cover the amount of the new tax.

PLAGUE AND RESUMPTION SCHEMES.

The Government having completed arrangements for the resumption of the principal seat of the recent epidemic of plague in the village of Mongha, cleared the entire area by fire last Wednesday.

TAXATION AND DWINDLING TRADE.

The business community is anxious to know what measures the Government propose to adopt to induce the Chinese Merchants to return to the city. In consequence of the harsh treatment to which their families were subjected on the outbreak of plague, they left the city in considerable numbers, and the ever-increasing taxation of trade doubtless makes them hesitate to return. The sight of so many Chinese shops and private residences closed up is deplorable.

The Chinese residents, by the way, are daily making a great deal of noise just now by way of thanks giving for the extermination of the plague epidemic.

BON VOYAGE.

Colonel Greenfield de Mello who was sent out by the Central Government to inspect the fortifications etc., having completed his arduous duties is about to return home. He will doubtless be able to report that he found everybody in the best of health.

June 17th.

MORE TAXATION—AND A SLUMP

IN PROPERTY.

During the temporary absence of Count Fernandez from the Colony Mr. Azedo was invited to occupy his seat in the Leal Senado. At the last meeting of this body, Mr. Azedo proposed a series of resolutions for imposing additional taxation with the approval of the Conselho de Provincia. A tax of 5 cents per square metre must be paid in respect of the site of each new building; for erecting walls or fences 20 cents per metre; on temporary walls or fences 5 cents per square metre. Licenses to repair walls, fences, &c., of any private residence or other building have to be taken out at the following rates:—for 1 day, 40 cents; for one month, \$1.00; for three months, \$3.00; for six months, \$5.00; and for a year \$10.00. Furthermore all yards and gardens attached to private houses are to be taxed at the following rates:—Not exceeding 100 square metres, \$2.50; exceeding 100 but not exceeding 20 square metres \$5.00; exceeding 200 but not exceeding 300 square metres, \$8.00; and for every additional 100 square metres, \$3.00.

As a result of these new taxes a heavy slump in the value of property in this "gem of the Orient" has set in.

Another taxation grievance is that all applications for licenses to open shops have to be sent to "Senhor Escrivão da Fazenda" in special envelopes provided at a cost of 20 cents and all applications in Chinese have to be accompanied by a Portuguese translation, which means additional expense. How can we hope to see business in the Colony revive when the Fazenda is doing all it can to kill it?

ROBBERY ON THE HIGH SEAS.

Sometime ago a robbery on the high sea near Taipa was reported, and some people belonging to a junk were reported missing. It subsequently came to the knowledge of the police that some suspicious characters were living in certain coolie quarters in Macao, and they arrested four men. When they were removing them to the gaol they were fired upon. One policeman being shot in the neck. The police turned on their assailants whom they discovered to be three women armed with revolvers. To-day His Honour the Chief Justice, Senhor Vidal, sentenced the woman who fired the shot to twenty years imprisonment in the Portuguese African Colony.

THE SANTA CASA DA MISERICORDIA.

Messrs. F. Gomez and J. Gil Pereira have been elected members of the committee of the above institution for the ensuing year, and I understand the Government will appoint Senhor Eduardo Lourenco, Col. F. Maher, and Rev. C. Vieta. I hear by the way that there will be no keen competition for the Lottery monopoly which is to be let next month for a period of five years.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

LAND ASSESSMENT.

This Council has discussed the question of abatement of market values for purposes of taxation, and, after reference to reports of previous Land Assessment Committees, has found no specific sufficient reason for so large a reduction, as 25 per cent., the rate heretofore obtaining. At the same time the members consider that, since there is a well-established precedent, the Council should have good reason for departing from the practice now in vogue.

The increase in Land Tax since 1902 will under any circumstances be heavy: one third was added in 1905; and, as regards the Central District, Messrs. Algar and Scott's re-valuation almost doubles the former figures. The Council is aware also that increase at the present

junction will fall heavily on many industrial undertakings whose land is in their own ownership.

With these circumstances in view, and in the knowledge that certain deductions are made in the valuations of properties elsewhere for taxation purposes, possibly to allow for subsequent shrinkage in values, or for properties occasionally unoccupied, it has been decided to make a fixed abatement throughout the Settlement of 20 per cent. on the new values.

Council Room.

Shanghai, 13th June, 1907.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR—In the period of quiet following the noise of the broadside delivered by the Government battery against the Report of the Public Health Commission, may I direct attention to paragraphs 146 to 155 which declare that large sums of money have been wasted on useless experiments in disinfection. These findings appear to have been unnoticed by the Government; at all events, these paragraphs have not been called into question, and we may regard this silence as an admission that they are unanswerable. But taxpayers would be glad to know what measures the Government intend taking to prevent a repetition of this enormous waste, and the householders who have suffered so much by these futile experiments would be greatly relieved to know that a period has been put to them—Yours &c.,
A READER.

DWINDLING DOCKS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I fear that "Dock Shareholder" has raised a hornet's nest by his letter on the above subject in your esteemed paper of the 6th inst. It is quite certain that your correspondent cannot know the circumstances prevailing in the Shanghai docking business, for if he does he would know that he is stating an untruth by making the assertion that "there is work and work in plenty at this moment (and there will be more) to keep the Shanghai Dock Company busy and enable it to return a reasonable dividend."

What is a reasonable dividend? 10 per cent.? or 8? or 6?

The Company cannot even pay 6 per cent on the past year's working.

The proof will be forthcoming before the first week of July.

And the cause? Too huge a capital invested in a now obsolete plant. The Reserve Fund of one million Taels which "Dock Shareholder" suggests to be utilized for the purpose of writing down the assets would be much better employed in purchasing an up-to-date plant if the Fund is in liquid form. But any man in Shanghai is aware that not a cent of the Reserve Fund is represented by cash but by scrap iron.

And it is this very reason which prevents the Dock Co., as at present constituted, to ever get out of the moribund state into which it has sunk. The capital of the Co. was, originally, Tls 2,200,000, and without the slightest addition to its plant or property it was raised some years ago, by a stroke of the pen, to Tls 5,520,000.

The plant being now obsolete the Company cannot compete with modern machine shops which will finish work in half the time and at less cost than the Shanghai Dock is obliged to charge.

Presumably "Shipbuilder" was actuated by the same motives as myself when he wrote his letter of warning to the *China Gazette* to warn people against listening to such statements as made by your correspondent "Dock Shareholder."

Statements of that nature have been made a hundred times during the last five years but not one of them have been borne out by facts, and the unfortunate people who have listened to them have had to suffer accordingly.—I am, &c.,
ANOTHER SHAREHOLDER.

Shanghai, 13th June.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, 20th June.

SIR,—I have just read "Another Shareholder's" letter in your issue of to-day.

I don't feel at all crushed.

I call 7 per cent. a reasonable dividend.

If the Dock Company could not pay 6 per cent. even over last year's working, if they show 3 per cent. only, and will devote that surplus to the purchase of any useful improvements in the way of machinery, &c., I shall be quite satisfied.

Under its recent management Shanghai Docks would slowly but surely have died the death, I am quite certain of that, but I note, with pleasure, the recent drastic purging the Company has undergone, and I am acquainted with the ability and honesty of the existing management.

I beg to be exonerated from the kindly accusation of being an untruthful witness, preferred by my friend "Another Shareholder."

If I have been guilty of an untruth it is unknown to me.

I am assured by Shanghai men, whose word I firmly rely on, that although the Docking business has recently been terribly dull, there is work and (unless Shanghai loses her place among Eastern Ports) will be work in plenty to assure my reasonable dividend.

Economies in running expenses have been effected by those now in power to an extent of some 3 per cent. of the capital of the Company. I do not despair of my 7 per cent. return.

As to present oppositions in Shanghai in the repairing and docking line, I have studied them all, and I maintain that, honestly and efficiently managed, the Shanghai Dock Company has nothing to fear from them.

As to our obsolete machinery, I admit of course at once that it is not equal to (say) that now being installed in Butterfield & Swire's new Dock in Hongkong—it is not to be expected—but it is machinery quite capable of doing all and any reasonable work. There are vessels and launches ploughing the seas to-day that are living testimony to the capabilities of this much-abused plant.

It is all nonsense to try and make out it is a useless mass of effete machinery. It is a plant that is quite able to hold its own against present competition in Shanghai and it can be added to from time to time as circumstances permit.

As to the reserve fund and the scrap iron question.

I know our reserve fund is not in liquid form, —I wish it were. What I say is that, if this 1,000,000 tael reserve fund be wiped out from our assets then it will leave us with our plant and machinery at somewhere about its true value.

"Another Shareholder," I fancy, misunderstands my attitude.

I have no sort of object in luring on unsuspecting investors to ruin by inducing them to buy a worthless stock. I am simply an unfortunate shareholder who has lost much money in this mismanaged concern and who heartily curses the recent unscrupulous management who would appear to have exploited me and the public at large. However, I am a shareholder and I can see no sort of sense in lying down to be trampled on. I repeat what I said before: let us support our present management and do all we can to transform "Shanghai Docks" from being the sport of every gambler on the Rialto to a decent Godfearing sober-minded interest bearing stock. It can be done, I am convinced.—Yours faithfully,
DOCK SHAREHOLDER

SANITARY CONDITION OF MACAO.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I am to-day in receipt of an official communication from the Secretary General of the Macao Government, Dr. Alfredo Lello informing me that the Sanitary condition of that Colony is now excellent; only a few cases of Bubonic Plague are recorded occasionally and these are considered "Sporadic." You will oblige me by announcing this information in your newspaper.—Yours faithfully,
A. G. ROMANO,
Consul-General for Portugal.

UNITED STATES COURT FOR CHINA.

NAMES APPEARING ON THE ROLL OF ATTORNEYS.

June, 10th 1907.

AMERICAN PRACTITIONERS.

Andrews, Lorin,
21, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai. (b)
Allen, Edgar Pierce,
57, Victoria Road, Tientsin.
Fessenden; Starling,
3, Hongkong Road, Shanghai. (a)
Fleming, William Stuart,
25, Nanking Road, Shanghai.
Heen, William H.,
13, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai.
Jernigan, Thomas R.,
3, Hongkong Road, Shanghai. (a)
FOREIGN PRACTITIONERS.

BRITISH.

Browett, Harold;
22, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai.
Drummond, William Venn,
11, Peking Road, Shanghai. (c)
Ellis, Francis,
4, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai. (e)
Gregson, Richard Eustace Stockdale.
11, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai. (f)
Hanson, John Currie,
5, Hongkong Road, Shanghai. (d)
Hays, John,
4, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai. (e)
Home, Noll Charles Minchin,
11, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai.
Jones, Loftus Edward Percival,
5, Hongkong Road, Shanghai. (d)
Kent, Percival H.,
2, Victoria Terrace, Tientsin. (g)
Mounsey, Kenneth W.,
2, Victoria Terrace, Tientsin. (g)
MacLeod, Ronald Neil,
11, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai. (f)
McNeill, Duncan,
5, Hongkong Road, Shanghai. (d)
Oppe, Henry Sigismund,
11, Peking Road, Shanghai. (c)
Phillips, Thomas Morgan,
11, Peking Road, Shanghai. (c)
Symonds, William North,
11, Peking Road, Shanghai. (c)
Teesdale, John Hermann,
11, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai. (f)
Wright, Geoffrey Herbert,
5, Hongkong Road, Shanghai. (d)
White-Cooper, Alfred Samuel Plumptre,
11, Peking Road, Shanghai. (c)

GERMAN.

Wuertz, Curt,
Victoria Buildings,
Victoria Road, Tientsin.

ITALIAN.

Musso, Giuseppe Domenico,
17, Peking Road, Shanghai.

JAPANESE.

Torao Kikuchi,
Care of Imperial Japanese Consulate,
Shanghai.

ASSOCIATED IN LAW FIRMS S.S.—

(a) Jernigan and Fessenden.
(b) Andrews and Brooks.
(c) Drummond, White-Cooper and Phillips.
(d) Hanson, McNeill and Jones.
(e) Ellis and Hays.
(f) Stokes, Platt and Teesdale.
(g) Kent and Mounsey.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has given his assent in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council.—Ordinance No. 6 of 1907.—An Ordinance to authorise the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from time to time to increase the Capital of the said Corporation from the sum of Ten Millions of Dollars to a sum not exceeding the sum of Twenty Millions of Dollars; and to continue incorporated for a further term of 21 years; and to continue in force for a further period of 21 years the provisions of Section 3 of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance, 1899, with regard to the Excess Issue of Bills and Notes payable to bearer on demand. Ordinance No. 7 of 1907.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Bills of Exchange.

COMMERCIAL.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, June 21st.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.		
Malwa New	\$820	to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$850	to — do.
Malwa Older	\$880	to — do.
Malwa Very Old	\$920	to — do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to — do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$850	to — do.
Patna New	\$875	to — per chest.
Patna Old	—	to — do.
Benares New	\$865	to — do.
Benares Old	—	to — do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 21st June, state that 26 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 98,800 tons of coal. Since May 31st 21 steamers have arrived with a total of 56,575 tons of coal.

The market for most kinds has continued dull. Small sales of Australian have been made to arrive at \$12 per ton ex-ship. There is a small demand for good Lump Japanese, and spot cargo is scarce. However, unscreened and medium qualities are offering freely without leading to business.

Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$14.00 to 15.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$11.50 to \$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	nominal
Milki Lump	\$10.00	nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.00 to \$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$7.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$7.75 to \$8.00	steady.
Bengal	\$9.00 to \$9.50	nominal.
Labuan Lump	\$8.00	steady.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods trade, dated Shanghai, 13th June, 1907, states:—With the nearer approach of the settling day, on which so much store has been set, the enquiry in our market has become quieter and buyers have found out what cargo importers hold and about the prices they are willing to sell at, the net result being that there is a difference of two and a half to three mace a piece between the ideas of buyers and sellers. Such being the case nothing has been done, both being willing to abide by the ruling of the market when business is resumed after the holiday, though holders are strong in their expectations that they will not have to accept lower prices than they have named. Under the present condition of the home markets there certainly seems to be no reason why they should take anything below covering rates, which would then be less than the replacing cost. The reshipment of cargo to New York continues and seems to be having a very salutary effect on this market, an advance of two and a half to three mace having already been established. Early in the interval the wet weather has interfered with them considerably. The news from Tientsin is that the country there is suffering from want of rain and the demand for consumption is very quiet at the moment. From Newchwang there is as yet no encouragement, while the Japanese traders established there are petitioning their Government to do something to alleviate the depressed state of affairs there. The agreement between the Chinese and Japanese regarding the establishment of a Chinese Customs House at Dalny is published, and it is to be hoped will become a matter of fact before long now. Anything that will serve to relieve the unsatisfactory state of affairs up in that region will be welcomed by the trade. The only negotiations with Manchester seem to be with regard to Fancy Goods, but even their prices and terms of delivery appear to be prohibitive. Cotton, after advancing to 7.47d. in Liverpool for Mid-American, suddenly declined to 7.22d., recovering at the close to 7.26d., futures being quoted 6.81d. Egyptian, after advancing rather, has settled down at 10½d. at the close. In New York October option is 11.78 cents and 11.88 cents for January. In reply to a special inquiry regarding the probable future course of the market for American cotton. The New York house of a local firm wires. "In our opinion present prices will be maintained." The stringency in the market there for domestics is caused by the scarcity of labour, and the consequent curtailed production, and not the high price of cotton. Further return shipments have been published per the s.s. "Korea" and "Norman Prince," making the total quantity so far: Shirtings 17,180 pieces, Sheetings 39,760 pieces, Jeans 20,960 pieces, and Cotton Flannels 1,000 pieces. There are naturally numerous re-sales reported, but the prices are so unreliable

it is not worth while repeating them, as we prefer to depend on the auction sales as a more reliable indication of the course of the market. These have been for the most part quite steady to firm for grey goods, which were inclined to droop. Bleached goods sold irregularly and with exception of some of the finer makes went at lower prices. Turkey Reds were inclined to be weaker in some chops, though others were quite steady. The Fast Black Cotton Italians were slightly weaker, though they did not lose all the substantial advances they made last week. Woollens continue selling at steady to firm prices for all makes. Fancy Goods.—Our attention has been called to the statistics for Figured Cotton Lastings, which appear amongst the re-exports in much larger quantities than some consider to be actually the case, and the question is raised as to whether certain qualities of Italians are not being returned as Lastings. It makes the figures very unreliable, in fact worthless, but it is suggested by an importer that the difficulty would be overcome, to a great extent, if goods packed 50 pieces in a case were returned as Lastings and those packed 30 or 40 pieces in a case, as Italians, and the half yearly returns might be made on these lines. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—The better feeling evinced at the close last week has been well maintained in spite of the vagaries of Exchange, and we are able to report a larger volume of business at firmer rates generally. Buying has been for Tientsin and the River Ports in the case of No. 20, also for Tsingtau and the River Ports. The total transactions amount in the aggregate to 2,118 bales.

The following is the weekly Piece Goods Report of Messrs. Ilbert & Co., dated Shanghai, June 14th, 1907:—Although the approach of the "Dragon Festival" setting day (15th instant) has exercised its usual restraint amongst the natives against fresh purchases from stock during the past day or two, there is a quiet undercurrent of strength pervading the market, and inquiry of a more or less marked character has emanated from nearly all the principal outlets during the interval, more especially from the Yangtze Valley and Ningpo, whilst Chefoo and Kiaochow have also participated. There has been a strong demand for Drills, the stock of these goods being down to moderate compass, and most qualities have shown a considerable rise in prices obtainable; a tentative inquiry for American Sheetings is also in evidence, mostly for Newchwang, but there is little or nothing coming out from holders' hands at values quoted, whilst the hesitancy on the part of buyers has resulted in some further reselling of stocks here back to America at values which show some 5d. per piece improvement upon those of such earlier sales. Bombay Yarns have continued to rule firm, values having improved about one half tael during the week, but the past day or two has shown signs of the demand having been temporarily satisfied. Altogether the outlook is distinctly favourable compared to a few weeks ago, and the pulse of the market, as shown by its agricultural state continues to beat steadily towards improved internal demand.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 12th June, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 34.00
Do. Seconds	31.50
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	7.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poochi	10.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu	10.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.00
Animal Tallow	10.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	14.25
Gallnuts, plum do.	17.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Turmeric	6.00
Sesamum Seed	5.40
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	8.70
Tea Oil	—

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 13th June, 1907, states:—Gallants.—There has been a small decline in first-cost prices, which has brought out a number of orders. Cowhides.—Very quiet. Season practically over. Tobacco.—Small supplies of low grade tobacco. Feathers.—Market continues strong. Hardly any supplies. Cotton.—Very little offering. Market strong. Tallow.—The season is closed. Strawbraid.—Supplies of all braids remain small at firm prices. Lohesh white; Kwangchow white, medium split, Shansi mottled are the goods which are mostly in demand. Goat-skin Rugs.—There is nothing new to report. Wool.—Sheep.—Small lots of Szechuen Wools are coming in and promptly taken. The situation in America is unimproved. Wool.—Camels.—Market continues very strong. Wood Oil.—Supplies are small and only a limited business has been done. Antimony. — Market declining. Buyers holding off.

Per steamer *Ajax*, sailed on the 4th June. For Havre London/Continent:—10 cases essential oil. For Marseilles Havre:—25 bales human hair. For Havre:—350 rolls mats, 34 bales feathers. For London:—143 cases chinaware &c., 370 bales canes, 1,300 packages firecrackers, 100 casks soy, 228 bales canes. For London/Glasgow:—210 casks ginger. For Glasgow:—8 bales straw cuffs. For London opt. Continent:—100 bales feathers, 150 bales canes, 270 rolls mats, 200 bales galangal. For Hamburg 260 bales canes. For Hamburg/Antwerp:—70 boxes bristles. For Copenhagen:—60 bales feathers. For Rotterdam:—450 packages cassia, 20 bales feathers. For Antwerp:—190 bales feathers.

Per steamer *Oceanien*, sailed on the 11th June. For Marseilles:—290 bales raw silk, 300 bales waste silk, 2 cases silk piece goods, 37 packages human hair, 129 packages tea, 7 cases feather, 10 cases ylang ylang oil, 20 cases cigars, 200 cases ginger, 1 case essential oil, 12 cases provisions, 6 packages sundries, 3 cases hats. For Lyons:—365 bales raw silk. For St Chamond:—35 bales raw silk. For Milan:—30 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Malacca*, sailed on 11th June. For Antwerp:—22 packages canes. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—650 bales hemp. For London:—2 cases cigar, 280 bales tea, 120 rolls matting, 100 bales waste silk, 20 bales bristles, 40 packages merchandise, 1,576 bales hemp, 1 case personal effects, 92 cases chinaware, etc., etc., 7 packages silk, 2 cases silk screens, etc.

Per steamer *Malta*, sailed on 15th June. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—2 cases silk and curios. For St. Chamond:—5 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—280 bales raw silk. For London:—1 case embroideries, 2 case silk, 250 bales waste silk, 60 bales raw silk, 1 case ivory, 9 cases china ink. For Marseilles:—8 cases human hair, 189 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 5 cases bird's feathers.

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Biset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending June 13th, 1907, has the following:—We have had a quite market since our last issue, and there is very little variation in rates with the exception of Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. shares, which have had a swift decline to Tls. 75. Most Hongkong stocks have also suffered a considerable decline and business there is exceedingly quiet. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/11½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. Without actual business reported sellers prevail at \$880 and a few shares are enquired for at \$870. The rate in London is £98. Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance. There are buyers at \$170. Shipping.—Shanghai Tugs. The market opened at Tls. 45 for the ordinary shares and quickly advanced to Tls. 46, closing firm at Tls. 46½. Preference shares still remain on offer at Tls. 50. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. A fairly good business has been done this week at declining rates. The market opened nominally at Tls. 82, when many shares being on offer the next date reported was Tls. 80, with a sale for December at Tls. 82½. A further weakness prevailed and shares changed hands at Tls. 79, Tls. 78, Tls. 76 and Tls. 75 for cash and June delivery. Subsequently Tls. 76 was again paid for cash shares and the market closed at this figure. Forward rates are uneven and we cannot give a close quotation. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock. The latest quotation from Hongkong is \$100 buyers. Shanghai and

Hongkew Wharf Co. Rates are remarkably steady and there is no variation to report from last week. Cash and June shares remain at Tls. 222½ and Tls. 224 respectively and sales have been made at from Tls. 232½ to Tls. 230 for September. Sugars.—Perak Sugars changed hands at Tls. 82½ for June. Mining.—Kaipings. A few small lots have been dealt in at Tls. 16 and Tls. 15.85. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have advanced from Tls. 101 to Tls. 103 for the old shares, new shares closing at Tls. 102. Industrial.—Cottons. Ewo Cottons have declined from Tls. 65 to 63 at which price shares are obtainable. Internationals. There are no cash shares to report, the price remaining nominally at Tls. 51. A sale for December was made at Tls. 53. Laou Kung Mows remain at Tls. 81 nominal. Shanghai Gas Co. shares have been dealt in at Tls. 100. China Flour Mills have had a smart decline from Tls. 64 to Tls. 60. Green Island Cements. The quotation from Hongkong is \$16. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats have had another rise during the week from Tls. 287½ to Tls. 297½. For September there are buyers at Tls. 307½ and for December Tls. 315 has been done. The market closes very firm. Shanghai Sumatras have changed hands at Tls. 110 for June. Miscellaneous.—S. Moutrie & Co. Sales are reported at \$49 cash. Astor House remains at Tls. 28½. Horse Bazaars have been placed at Tls. 45. Shanghai Mercury shares. A sale is reported at Tls. 47½.

HONGKONG, 21st June, 1907.—The little sport reported in our last circular has not been fully maintained, and although a fair business has been transacted during the week rats have declined, and in most stocks sellers rule the market at time of closing. Exchange on London T/T 2/2½, on Shanghai 73½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small odd lots at \$880, but at time of closing shares are obtainable at \$875 and it is probable that a slightly lower rate would be accepted. Nationals unchanged and without business. The London rate for Hongkong and Shanghai remains at £98.

MARINE INSURANCES.—We have no business to report under this heading. Cantons have declined to \$275 with sellers, and Yangtzes, in the place of buyers at quotation, close with sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs remain unchanged and without business. Chins, after small sales at 85, close with a small demand at 86.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have changed hands in small lots at 29½, closing with buyers at that and with sellers at 30. Douglases have improved to 40½ after further sales at 40. Indos have been negotiated at 70, and Shell Transports at 47½. Star P'eries continue neglected at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars remain entirely neglected, and even at the reduced rate of 105 sellers rule the market. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Raubs have changed hands during the week in fair lots at 6½ and 7; the market however closes much quieter with sellers at 6½. The crushing for the last month was 801 ozs. from 4,475 tons.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa in the early part of the week improved considerably and sales were effected at 105½, 106, 109 and 110. Later however, with holders willing to realize a small profit, shares thrown on the market caused a reaction and the rate again fell to 106 with sales, the market closing with buyers at 105. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have found small purchasers at 79 and 80 the market closing with sellers at the latter rate. Shanghai Docks have shown no important movement, but continue weak at the quotation of 75. Hongkew Wharves ruled steady in Shanghai in the early part of the week at 222 to 223, and a good business is reported. The latest quotation from the north makes the stock much easier with sales at 220. New Amoy Docks continue unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at the reduced rate of 106, the market closing quiet at that rate. West Points have improved with a small sale to 50. Kowloon Lands and Humphreys have been placed at quotations, the market for both stocks closing quiet. In Hotels and Shanghai Lands we have no changes nor business to report.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined in Shanghai to 61½ and Laou Kung Mows to 82½. Other Cottons remain unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have declined to 9 without sales. China Providents have changed hands at 9 and 8.90 in small lots, closing with sellers at the higher rate. Dairy Farms continue with sellers at 15, but buyers at lower rates meet with no response. Green Islands have further improved with sales at 16½, the market closing with further sellers at that rate, but with buyers and no sellers at 16½. Watsons have found small buyers at 11½, and some further shares are on offer at that rate. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$875, sellers London £98
National B. of China		
A. Shares	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A..	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$9, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$6½, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 61½
Hongkong	\$10	\$11½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 51
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 82½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$79, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$11½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and		
Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
S'hai & H. Wharf..	Tls. 100	Tls. 220
Fenwick & Co., Geo..	\$25	\$17½, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$16½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas..	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co..	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$245
Hongkong Rope Co..	\$10	\$20, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$275, sellers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$86, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$80, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$325, sellers
North China.....	25	Tls. 75, sellers
Union	\$100	\$750, buyers
Yangtze	\$80	\$170, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$106, sales & sel.
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 103
West Point Building	Tls. 50	Tls. 102
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£250	\$480, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$6½, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$11, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$105, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$15½, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40½, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$70, sales & sel.
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	\$7½, sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$16½, sellers
South China M. Post.		
Steam Laundry Co.	\$25	\$23, sellers
	\$5	\$7
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins.....	\$10	\$4, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12½, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, June 24th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	275½
Credits 4 months' sight	28½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	224½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	5¼
Credits, 60 days' sight	5¼
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	162½
Bank, on demand	163
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	162½
Bank on demand	163
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	107
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	107
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	7½ p.o. pm
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	131½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3½ p.o. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	3½ p.o. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	67½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.00
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$18.10
BAR SILVER, per oz	31

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 14th June.—Freights remain about the same as last reported.—From Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents last and offering; to Philippines, 29 cents per picul last; to North Coast Java, 20 cents per picul. Bangkok to Hongkong, 27 cents and 20 cents nominal. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents nominal; to Japan, 11/- per ton. Coal freights are firm, from Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 last; Canton, \$2.50; Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.50; Canton, \$2, Amoy, \$2.50; Swatow, \$1.75; Labuan to Hongkong, \$2.25 per ton. Pulo Laut to Singapore, \$2.75; Hongkong, \$3.00. The following are the settlements:—

Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Chunsang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Wakamatsu or Karatsu to Canton, \$2.80 and \$2.50 per ton.

Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$2.00 per ton.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$2.00 per ton.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Singapore to Shanghai, \$8.250 lump sum.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Pulo Laut to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Pulo Laut to Hongkong, \$3.00 per ton.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Saigon to Singapore, \$4.200 lump sum.

Ulv—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, (20,000 piculs). 29 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre; 40/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez).—Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland).—per carload. Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross; less than carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June—

ARRIVALS.

13. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoilow.
13. Malta, British str., from Shanghai.
14. Dundas, British str., from Moji.
14. Heim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
14. Kanchow, British str., from Newchwang.
14. Temang, British str., from Manila.
14. Telemachus, British str., from Swatow.
14. To'v, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
14. Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
14. Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
15. Clithli, British str., from Haiphong.
15. Goto Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
15. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
15. Kmatra, German str., from Manila.
15. Taisham, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
16. Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
16. Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
18. Drufar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
16. Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
16. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
16. Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
16. Liangchow, Brit. str., from Newchwang.
16. Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
17. Aki Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
17. Kowloon, German str., from Mororan.
17. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
17. Progress, Nor. str., from Samarang.
17. Segovia, German str., from Shanghai.
17. Seiko Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
17. Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
17. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
18. Bombay Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
18. Chipshing, British str., from Chefoo.
18. Glenroy, British str., from Singapore.
18. Hue, French str., from K. C. Wan.
18. Lisan, British str., from Chinkang.
18. Marie, German str., from Moji.
18. Nikkai Maru, Jap. str., from Hongay.
18. Pingsuey, British str., from Shanghai.
18. Scharnhorst, German str., from Shanghai.
18. Soahu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
18. Victoria, Swedish str., from Sourabaya.
18. Zoroaster, British str., from Xmas Island.

June—

DEPARTURES.

14. Alesia, German str., for Keelung.
14. Amoy, German str., for Quinhon.
14. Aragonia, German str., for Manila.
14. Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
14. Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
14. Hakata Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
14. Knivsberg, German str., for K. C. Wan.
14. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Manila.
14. M. S. Dollar, British str., for Shanghai.
14. Norman Prince, Brit. str., for Singapore.
14. Providence, Nor. str., for Singapore.
14. Vizcaya, American str., for Saigon.
14. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
15. Aikoku Maru, Japanese str., for Java.
15. Amara, British str., for Saigon.
15. Amigo, German str., for Quinhon.
15. Fooksang, British str., for Singapore.
15. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
15. Malta, British str., for Europe.
15. Nippon, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
15. Pronto, German str., for Saigon.
15. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
15. Tjikini, Dutch str., for Amoy.
16. Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
16. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoilow.
16. Helene, German str., for Swatow.
16. Hunan, British str., for Iloilo.
16. Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
16. Kinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
16. Orange Branch, Am. str., for Moji.
16. Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
16. Shinobiku Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.
16. Spir, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
16. Taikoson Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchino'zu.
16. Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
16. Ulv, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
17. Kiang Ping, Chinese str., for Chiukiang.
17. Chihli, British str., for Hoilow.
18. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
18. Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
18. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
18. Istok, Austrian str., for Bombay.
18. Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
18. Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
18. Pitsanulok, German str., for Swatow.
18. Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
18. Segovia, German str., for Singapore.
18. Siberia, American str., for Shanghai.
18. Taming, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Shaohsing*, from Shanghai. Mrs. Samson, Messrs. Medley, Roberts, McCarthy, Thermitte, and Ramsay.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila. Mrs. A. E. Winehart, Mrs. John H. Lashbroke, Miss W. I. Hunsaker, Miss Florence Hunsaker, and Mr. Robert Johnson.

Per *Changsha*, from Sydney. Mrs. Bentinger, Miss Millington, Messrs. G. Townsend, De Vermont, Fenwick, Duncan-on, R. Forrest, Dougall and Harimoto.

Per *Tuning*, from Manila. Lieut. J. McRae, Mrs. Maria Subelza, Miss M. E. O'Leary, Miss M. de Rackin, Sister Camilla Weckenmann, Sister Patronilla Keller, Sister David, Rev. Jose Espina, Messrs. W. W. Schepper, W. J. Cuff, R. S. Nicols, A. J. van Waning, A. W. French, C. F. Day, L. B. Hamilton, W. E. Jage, and Anastacio Manlion.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila. Mr. and Mrs. Burling, Mrs. H. C. Strong, Mrs. S. P. Evans, Miss T. Craig, Lt. A. N. Stark, Messrs. F. X. Maher, R. Mayer, H. C. Matthews, M. W. File, W. C. Groth, J. W. Rice, H. F. Labelle, J. Laughlin, A. Viterba, Villanueva, G. Sichel-schmidt, W. Schmidt, R. F. Smith, A. B. Powell, G. L. Green, H. Crombie, H. R. Harrison, K. W. Rabbitz, W. Tager, E. Moynauae, D. W. Moxton, Filomeno Pastrano, Geo. Gostz and Leon Heker.

Per *Malta*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai. Messrs. H. Losar and I. Baumann; from Yokohama, Lt. K. H. Benson; for London, from Shanghai, Miss Sanderson, Miss Mors; from Yokohama, Mr. H. Rhodes; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Mello; for Bombay, from Kobe, Miss Warde Jones, General T. Capper, Col. Bird, Majors Blere, Baumgartner, Kennedy, Leas, Skeen, Wigram and Sheppard, Captains Hathbro, Browne, Davies, Glasford, Lock, Hopwood, Deverall, Villiers-Smart, Branker, Howell, Capper, Storck and Parver.

Per *Preussen*, for Hongkong, from Bremen. Mrs. Anguste Ueiker; from Genoa, Misses Marie Buttner, Emma Haas, Johanna Bleidoru, Messrs. Fr. Kriebel, K. Panzer, J. Duppert, K. Eiru, P. Heyer, P. Gossweiler, E. Wilms, R. Stiebler, A. D. I. Laan, R. Quas, Gerb. Mange and A. Watson; from Penang, Mr. George Fraser; from Mr. and Mrs. E. Cosmus, Mrs. Richard and child, Messrs. C. Clifford, F. C. Minnitt & servant, S. F. Filsh, H. Suligoon, Inspector v. Riegen, E. Murchard and C. Stoll.

Per *Nyanza*, from London, for Hongkong. Mr. and Mrs. McCaffery, Dept. Insp. W. Tait, Mrs. and Miss Tait, Mrs. E. W. Maitland and amah, Miss A. M. E. Molony, Sub-Lieuts. R. V. De Halpert, K. V. Orlebar, D. Maxwell, H. W. K. Young, G. A. Luscombe, R. W. Hinton; for Shanghai, Mrs. McGregor Smith, Miss J. Birchall, Major C. G. Falcon, Messrs. Tyack, J. B. Brietley, Jas. Mackenzie, F. W. Pearce, Wm. Holmes, F. K. Stewart, Wm. J. Prince, Jr. Prosser, J. George, J. Horne, J. McGregor Smith and Chas. Butler; for Manila, Messrs. D. G. Gray & D. L. Howat; from Singapore, for Hongkong, Capt. E. E. Whitehead; for Yokohama, Mr. H. T. Neville; from Brindisi, for Yokohama, K. Kaga, for Kobe, K. Ohsumi.

Per *Scharnhorst*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Blano, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Beads, Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Doherty, Mrs. Vivian Hogg, Mrs. A. Henderson, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss Anna Wee, Dr. H. Wee, Messrs. H. Fossen and Bosshard; from Yokohama, Mr. F. C. de Lonza Botiebo; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Sarah Svartz, Mrs. Tama Watanabe; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Keley, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Holloway, Dr. L. A. Whittle, Mr. M. Nowalrai; for London, Mr. L. Yamaoka; for Southampton, Mr. G. T. Marrow; for Genoa, Mr. K. Ferano, Dr. T. Monyé; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Leliwre and 2 children; for Naples, Mr. Giacomo; for Bremen, Mr. A. Schäfer-Hansen; for Hamburg, Mrs. Breymann, Miss B. Flint, Miss K. Büsing; for Genoa, Mrs. C. Kupp, Messrs. v. Alemaun and R. Lopez; from Kobe, for Genoa, Mrs. and Miss Hume, Mrs. Kashi, Messrs. F. G. Banlay and F. Blan; for Singapore, Messrs. T. Tahara and F. Ohkabo; from Nagasaki, for Deli, Mrs. S. Furtane; for Southampton, Miss Farrow.

Per *Kwongsang*, from Shanghai. Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Murray, Dr. and Mrs. Wittenberg, and Mr. Bishop.

Per *Teau*, from Manila. Capt. and Mrs. McCloskey and child, Mr. and Mrs. Hurrey, Capt. Kissam, Capt. Wordsow, Messrs. Loysaga, Guthrie, Miller, and McDonough.

Per *Mongolia* for Hongkong, from San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hudson, Dr. and Mrs. E. O. Winship, Mrs. D. Christian, Miss E. Bolenhagen, Miss G. Holly, Miss V. Stone, Hon. C. S. Hyman, Messrs. W. A. Crossland, R. J. Monahan, J. A. McClure and F. H. Thompson; from Yokohama Mr. and Mrs. Evans, and Mr. W. H. Llewellyn; from Kobe, Mrs. J. Reed Whipple, and Miss Newman; from Shanghai, Mrs. J. Jessen, infant & amah, Mrs. E. O. Marston, Dr. F. Kulemann, Messrs. W. T. Hogue, F. Materna, J. Thomas and G. Vivario.

Per *Nubia*, from Foochow, for Hongkong, Rev. J. Barton, and Rev. E. C. Moore; for London, Mr. Mrs. Miss and Master G. L. Greig and amah; from Yokohama, for London, Mrs. H. C. Gregory, child infant and amah, Lt. P. Richie, Messrs. F. Watts, J. H. Page, H. S. Smith, W. Hayward, J. Robbarts, W. A. Kerman and T. Scott; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Ball; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Riches, Mrs. W. P. Galton, Messrs. L. D. Tabb, R. N. Tong and A. C. A. Corneck; for Marseilles, Mr. F. W. Fox.

DEPARTED.

Per *Preussen*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai. Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Wineheart, Miss Bohme, Messrs. W. Kohrs, Crombu, Blount, Woodruff, da Silva Telles and C. J. Lopez; for Nagasaki, Mr. Watanabe; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Kelley, Messrs. Lawrence, Battista and Leandro; for Yokohama, Mrs. Konada, and Mr. Yamamoto and party.

Per *Scharnhorst*, from Hongkong, for Europe. Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Rungi, Mr. and Mrs. G. Harling, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Lelievre, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Howe, Miss Lucas, Miss Craig, Messrs. C. Martmann, v. der Voch, G. Schmidt, C. Petersen, W. Ueager, W. Schmidt, Powell, Smith, Stranglin, A. E. Drummond, A. Hopps, J. P. Cottin, M. W. File, R. Nicols, Wm. C. Groth, Pastiana, Rabbitz, W. W. Sheppard and G. Gostz.

Per *Tartar*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai and Vancouver. Mr. and Mrs. Rivers, Mr. and Mrs. Baget-Hett, Mr. and Mrs. Burling, Mr. and Mrs. Blackett, Rev. and Mrs. Stevens, Mr. and Miss Cooksholt, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Gaula and family, Miss Barker, Miss Trutob, Dr. Donelan, Lieut. Lindsell, Messrs. T. & J. Miller, Jas. H. Bowman, Forrest, J. F. M. Whyte, Keating, Vinokooroff, Meinhead, Welsh, Dougall Goldsmith, Moore, Whaley, Ward, Wright, Stielman and Fleming.

Per *Siberia*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai and San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Stata, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Myers, Mrs. P. Garrison, Mrs. J. Hunsaker, Mrs. D. H. Hafe, Mrs. F. R. Lewis, Mrs. J. H. Lashbroke, Mrs. M. Lees, Mrs. S. B. Evans, Miss M. E. O'Leary, Miss P. Yates, Miss F. Hunsaker, Misses Alice and Marion Hamilton, Miss L. L. Crawford, Miss M. De Crackin, Rev. R. C. Johnson, Lieut. J. McRae, Lt. J. A. Deacon, Major A. N. Stark, U.S.N., Messrs. L. A. Gearheart, A. J. Waning, F. Ytter, W. Frise, R. H. Baker, Villanueva, Geo. R. Hill, S. Kayano, G. G. Willar, F. W. Sexton, A. H. S. Chuck, F. X. Maher and J. W. Rice.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, from Hongkong, for Australia. Mr. and Mrs. Bevis and children, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Doherty and baby, Mr. and Mrs. Parrish, Dr. and Miss Wex, Mrs. O. Connor, Mrs. Lamberts, Miss Marie Buttner, Joh. Blilorn, Miss Emma Haas, Major A. D. Baumann, Rev. Barayazara, Rev. Famaya, Messrs. K. Akabana, Blauel G. Bishop, C. Born, Russel Clarke, W. C. Forbes, Paul Gossweiler, P. Hayer, G. Hange, F. Kriebel, Anton van der Laan, Mission Kandidat Karl Panzer, Richard Quas, Missionar Job. Ruppert, Robert Strickler and Wilms.

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